



VOL. I.—No. 2.

WEEK ENDING MAY 24, 1873.

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Inverness 1873.

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May 1873.

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

WEDNESDAY Night.

RECENT elections have produced a very painful impression on the minds of the "wire-pullers" at the Reform Club. Speaking to one of these gentlemen last night, I was assured that the leaders of the party had now little or no hope of being able to retain a fair working majority after the general election, which my friend considered could not be long deferred. He said that in England the ranks of the Liberals were certain to be so fully thinned, and that many thought the Irish representation would be almost exclusively composed of Home Rulers and Tories. "Scotland," he added, "is Radical to the core, and we do not fear any great falling off there." He alluded, with much complacency, to the attitude assumed by the constituents of Messrs. Aytoun, Macleod and Bouverie, and expressed the hope that St Stephen's would soon see the last of the latter gentleman. I sincerely trust that he will be disappointed, for Mr Bouverie is one of the most valuable men in the present House of Commons. His ability is of a very high order, and his independence is undoubted. He supports the Ministry just so far as his views will allow him, but no further, and Mr Glyn, most adroit of "Whips," never knows when to reckon on his vote. Mr Bouverie says unpleasant things in a most unpleasant manner, and there is no greater parliamentary treat than to see him sustain the part of "candid friend" to Mr Gladstone. It is, therefore, to be desired that Kilmarnock will not break with his old love.

The Marquis of Lorne—Princess Louise's young man as the *Saturday Review* calls him—is coming gradually to the fore, and bids fair to become a popular and useful public character. The alliance of the House of Argyle with that of Hanover was not at first regarded with favour in this country, and the young Marquis did not make many friends for a long time. His personal appearance, which is, to say the least, not imposing, and his manners and turn of thought, which are more those of a *petit maître* than a high-born courtier, are a decided barrier to popularity in England, where people think princes should have robust minds in robust bodies. First impressions are, however, wearing off, and, I am glad to say it is now becoming apparent that the Marquis possesses a fund of good sense and good feeling, which must ultimately endear him to those amongst whom he lives. His proposal recently made to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to inaugurate a monument on behalf of the poor clergy of the Established Church, has raised him immensely in the eyes of the whole community, and the decided stand he has taken against "the shrieking sisterhood" has also won him golden opinions. He not only voted against Mr Jacob Bright's Female Suffrage Bill, but he has only consented to preside at the approaching meeting of the Society for Improving the Education of Women, on receiving an assurance that no ladies should be allowed to speak!

Great anxiety continues to exist in Roman Catholic circles, notwithstanding the late telegrams, as to the condition of the Pope, and a speedy and fatal termination of his illness is feared by many. He would be most lamented by large numbers of Englishmen who, whilst abhorring the religious system of which he is the head, have always been loyal in their praise of his genial and benevolent gentleman whom none could fail to discover in the venerable Pio Nono. Speculation as to his successor is very rife among clerical members of the ancient faith, but no well-informed person here believes the newspaper report that Archbishop Manning is likely to obtain a majority of the votes of the Sacred College.

Speaking of matters Roman Catholic, it may not be amiss to chronicle the fact that M. Leyson, having been deprived of the title of "Father" by the Church, has had it conferred upon him by Malague Leyson. The ex-staymaker from New York has presented her husband, the eloquent Pere Hyacinthe, with a son.

Bradlaugh, the blasphemer, and his sixty-nine brother demagogues, might their Republican conference to a close in Birmingham some days since, and the resolute-much lamented by the *National Reformers*, is now in Madrid with an address of sympathy for Senor Castelar. The latter has, probably, never heard of the three sailors of Tooley Street, and, as I fear the *Highlander* is not likely to reach Madrid for some days, I will not further pursue the leader of the English Republicans. I may, nevertheless, add that Mr Bradlaugh and the Rev. Mr Brewen Grant are shortly to have a grand controversy on the rival merits of Christianity and Atheism. This theological contest is to come off in one of our large public halls.

Newspaper proprietors and promoters are very active just now. The *Telegraph* and *News* are vying with each other in the matter of early information, and the *Kilwin* telegrams of the former are attracting much attention. Should they prove genuine, they will add enormously to the prestige of "the largest circulation in the world." New journals, or old ones revived, are springing up all around us.

Annus, the new satirical journal, is the *Tombank* re-christened. It has many "smart" writers on the staff, but we cannot predict for it a very prosperous career.

Tempora mutantur! A few short years since Mr Gladstone's Ministry entered office with the holy resolve to reduce expenditure and suppress sinecures. A few days since we had Mr Glyn issuing an energetic "whip," calling on the Government supporters to vote against the proposal to abolish the office of Lord Privy Seal!

Mr Mall's motion drew forth a most impassioned speech from Mr Gladstone. I have rarely, indeed, seen

him apparently so thoroughly in earnest. Springing to his feet he at once dashed headlong into the fray, and proceeded to assail the position assumed by the member for Bradford with a vehemence which he has not displayed for many a day. There was nothing uncertain in the Premier's war-cry. He crushed his enemy with his heavy guns, and galled him with a fire of small missiles. When he resumed his seat the struggle was over, and all the honours rested with the defenders of "The Church as by law established." Still the assailants have not lost heart. Defeat they knew was inevitable, and, although it was more complete than they expected, they are not cast down. They believe that time is on their side, and they hope that the Prime Minister may live to do by the Church of England as he did by that of Ireland, and I can only say that more unlikely things have happened in Mr Gladstone's career. Several points connected with the division are remarkable. In the first place, ten of Mr Gladstone's colleagues absented themselves on the occasion, as did also the Irish Roman Catholics. Mr John Bright came to town expressly to vote for Mr Mill, but Scotland gave a majority of three to one against disestablishment.

The movement to raise a national memorial to Mr Mill is gaining ground rapidly, and most of the leading men of both political parties have already joined it. Mr Disraeli still holds aloof, but the author of "Lothian" always affected to despise "the philosophers."

OUR EDINBURGH LETTER.

TUESDAY Evening.

Much rain, no sun, cold and raw weather have been the chief characteristics of the past week here. There is little to chronicle interesting to Northerners, unless in the way of coming events, that cast their shadow before, such as the meeting of the General Assembly on the 22d; the meeting of the Mid-Lothian Rifle Association on the 16th June (the programme of which has just been issued), and the Scottish Metropolitan Dog Show, which opened to day. An event of the week which will call forth universal regret, is the death of Dr Mackintosh Mackay, which took place at his residence at Portobello, on Saturday. A minister, successively in Laggan, Dunoon, Australia, and lately in Harry, there were few men better known or held in higher esteem. To him we owe, in a great measure, the Gaelic Dictionary of the Highland Society, in itself a lasting monument to his memory.

It is gratifying to learn that Charles Mackay, LL.D., is still pursuing his Celtic studies, and that one result of his labours in this department is to be published shortly in a volume, entitled the "Gaelic Etymology of English, &c." Nearly twenty years ago Dr Mackay favoured the English reading public (in the preface to a collection of Scottish Songs, which has since gone through more than one edition) with the following estimate of the poetry and music of the Gael—an estimate worth quoting, as it has been much referred to by the minutists; and coming, as it does, from the most popular song writer of the day: "Nearly all the beautiful music, and delicious sketches of song, commonly considered to be Scottish, belong to that section of Scotland, known as the lowlands, and a country in which the people speak one of the many Doric dialects of the Saxon English language. If a line be drawn from Greenock on the Clyde, north-east by Perth to Laverne, it will be found that by far the greater portion of the songs and melodies which are known as Scotch to Scotchmen, and to the world, and of which Scotchmen speak with the highest pride and enthusiasm, have been produced to the south and east of it."

North-west of that line is the land of the Gael—the semi-barbarous and imperfect instrument, the bagpipe, of wild pibroch tunes, of rude melodies, very little known and still less admired, and of a species of song which has rarely been considered worth the trouble of translation. But on the south-east of the line, and all the way to the English border, where the Saxon tongue prevails, and where the minds of the people have for ages had access to English literature, "(O, my country!)" the land is vocal with sweet sounds.

The Highlander, who has no right or title to this music" (?) or song, is as proud of both as the Lowlander, and not infrequently claims for his own wild melodies, and for his rude attempts" (Professor Blackie! to the rescue!) at lyrical poetry in the language of the Gael, a large portion of the admiration lavished upon compositions of a totally different origin and character. The Lowlanders, while they admit the claim of the Highlanders, take to themselves the little that is good in Celtic music and song, in order that with it they may swell the triumphs of a land, that being geographically English is considered to be Scotch." Further, in his "Jacobite ballads," published more recently, and as illustrative of his still pursuing the subject with interest, we are told that these, our "Jacobite ballads, as far as they are known, are more uniformly plaintive" (shade of *Abolisher*, *Mr M'Alister*, *Abolisher*!) "and melancholy than their southern counterparts. Comparatively little is known of them, their language renders them a sealed book, to three-fourths of their countrymen. Learned antiquaries understanding *Esse* are not many, and even these have not thought it worth their while to collect the scattered fragments of a rude literature, which is no longer understood by the classes who purchase and read books. A few of them have been made known to the general public through the translations" (?) "of the Ettrick Shepherd and others; and where these have not been caricatured and marred by the ill-haste of the translator, in rendering them into the broken and imperfect jargon

of a Highlander's first attempts to speak English, are creditable" (really!) "to the passion of the Celtic muse, and to the zeal" (oh, dear!) "of the people in behalf of their native princes."

There! let our Gaelic societies look to it.

The announcement recently made of the appointment of Albert Bitter, a younger son of the well-known laird of Fessally, to the magistracy in Edinburgh of a very prosperous concern, the Cotton Bank of Scotland, will doubtless be hailed with much satisfaction in northern latitudes, especially by your Perthshire readers. We are certainly developing as a people, and long ere the dreaded New Zealander arrives on British shores, we hope to have inscribed in our annals for his inspection, the names of many eminent financiers, hailing from the north. Time was when our old Highland lairds looked decidedly askance at all commercial callings, when the profession of arms alone was deemed worthy of a gentleman. This notion is almost exploded, bitter experience having taught them that if their ancient paternal possessions are to be retained, they must train up their sons to remunerative pursuits, even those with the taint of trade upon them. The example of a great Highland laird and chief in the west, whose ancestors have always been famous for their far-seeing wisdom, makes this doctrine now easier of digestion. Happy would it have been for many of them if they had learned the lesson somewhat earlier—the Highlands would not have resounded with unfamiliar names, nor themselves be laudless and well-nigh forgotten.

OUR GLASGOW LETTER.

FOLLOWING up my remarks of last week on the efforts being put forth by our countrymen in the Lowlands to foster national feeling and perpetuate national customs, it may not be out of place here to refer to one or two things that have, within the last few days, come under my own observation, as indicating some of the many ways in which the genuine Celt gives vent to his feelings. I was shown the other day, in one of the large manufacturing warehouses in this city, patterns of a certain tartan, both in chintz and in printed fabrics. They were, I learned, being prepared for a wealthy and enthusiastic Highlander of a certain clan, being a good distance from the Highlands, but who, to all appearances, is determined to bring the Highlands pretty close to his fireside—as the prints were for dresses to be worn by his numerous servants, and the chintz for the covering of his furniture. Our worthy Celt, however, is not satisfied with having his attendants dressed in tartan, and in reeling himself on couches covered with fabrics of a similar device, but he has actually laid violent hands upon the crockery, and is about to put upon it also the same Celtic impress. Many of our Lowland friends will doubtless hold up their hands in horror, at the base idea of washing themselves out of a basin painted after the fashion say of a *Bob Roy tartan*. Still it is all a matter of taste; and I am barbarian enough to confess that I should enjoy as much a bit of venison or a good steak out of a plate painted in Victoria tartan, as out of the best Staffordshire ware. All honour to the right-hearted Celt. I am not gifted with the second sight, but I may venture to predict that before a twelvemonth elapses there will be a host of imitators.

From tartan dresses and tartan-painted-crockery, the transition is easy to bagpipes. Writing of bagpipes, is it not a matter both of astonishment and regret that in the Vienna Exhibition, among all the exhibits of musical instruments, there is not a single bagpipe? What has come over our Hibernian friends who enjoyed last winter the unusual luck of a course of several lectures on this instrument? It is too late now to repair the loss, but surely it might have entered into the crania of our Celtic friends in Ireland to have sent, not only the several instruments they had to illustrate the lectures, but also a copy of the lectures by way of certifying to the antiquity of the bagpipe.

I do not know but it might be worth while to endeavour to rectify the omission. If one of the ancient pipers that are found in such goodly numbers in Edinburgh and Leith, were to take ship to Hamburg, thence working his way through Germany, giving *Mün Herr*, in passing, specimens of Scotch music in return for the airs of the Fatherland, (*Amal* so perpetually into our ears by their brass bands, I think, on the whole, his trip would pay, and he would have the credit of making up for much remissness on the part of his countrymen. It looks a long journey, much longer I should think than any ever undertaken by the famous Rob-the-Ranter, still I have substantial reasons for believing that pipers before now have travelled much farther. A friend of mine, a few evenings ago, told me that a Highlander, and as far as I remember either a Tyree or Mullman, captain of a large merchant-man, once in Calcutta, was in a great strait to get a crew to work his ship. Strolling through the city one day he fell in with a couple of pipers. My informant, himself a seafaring man, told me that the two worthy musicians, though not so ignorant as not "to know a mast from a manger," were not by any means much acquainted with seamanship. The Tyreeman, however, was satisfied with their ability to play the bagpipes, and being passionately fond of Highland music, he shipped them as A.B.'s. Frequently, on quiet evenings afterwards, when moving slowly down the Cromwell coast, the stirring strains of the bagpipe might be heard rising from the deck of the Tyreeman's vessel. The Tyreeman was a worthy in his way. Another great freak of his was whenever he fell in with another ship at sea he indulged in signalling to them in Gaelic. Of course the ignorant signalled to, set it down as

Dutch, Portuguese, or Spanish, or any other language but that which in reality it was. He was caught, however, one afternoon by another Highlander in command of another merchantman, who had known him and heard of his plans. He got answered in Gaelic on this occasion, and though a considerable distance from each other, a conversation was kept up in Gaelic for a whole afternoon. Not so bad for the Gaelic when it can accommodate itself to the signalling code at sea.

Writing of the Gaelic and what it can accommodate itself to, I am reminded that Highlanders in this city are just now in some danger of losing a useful and valued friend. The Rev. Mr Blair of St. Columba has, I understand, received a call to the parish of Dunoon. What the decision of the rev. gentleman may be is difficult to conjecture. He has now been pastor of St. Columba for about five years, and has laboured zealously and with much acceptance. In point of numbers and efficiency, the church now occupies a position superior to any it has hitherto done—every available seat is occupied, and still, I am told, large numbers of applicants cannot be accommodated. I think the rev. gentleman can scarcely be spared where his labours are so heartily appreciated, and attended apparently with so much success.

The Conservatives here, I understand, have determined, as in constituencies, to try their fortune at the coming election. Rumour has been very busy for some time past, and various names have been mentioned; but the one on which I am inclined to think the Tories will stake their all, and that with considerable prospects of success, is Mr John Burns, one of the ablest and most active partners in the Cunard Company. Mr Burns would, doubtless, command a large proportion of the shipping interest here, and with this addition to their strength, the Tories count upon success.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, May 19, 1873.

The Marquis of SALISBURY moved an address to the Crown, praying that the scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, relating to King Edward VI. Grammar School, Birmingham, might be set aside. His objection to the scheme was virtually that it unsecularises the school, and throws it open to the entire community. Lord ERSKINE defended the scheme as being in accordance with the almost unanimous opinion of the people of Birmingham. Lord SALISBURY'S motion was carried on a division by 106 to 60 votes.

BILLS ADVANCED.

The Oyster and Mussel Fisheries Order Confirmation Bill; the River and the Harbour Orders Confirmation Bill; and the Superannuation Act Amendment Bill, passed the second reading.

The Railway and Canal Traffic Bill was read a third time and passed.

TUESDAY, May 20, 1873.

NEW FEES.

The Earl of Zetland and the Earl of Galloway took the oath and their seats.

The Australian Customs Duties Bill passed through committee.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

In reply to the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Kimberley said that the Government sent about 50 marine artillery to the coast to assist in protecting the town, and between 200 and 300 men would be sent from the West Indies. Additional supplies of rockets would be sent out, and ammunition would be served out as the Administration thought necessary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, May 19.

INSPECTORS OF POOR AND SCHOOL BOARDS.

In reply to Sir R. Anstruther, Mr BRUCE said that it was not desirable that Inspectors of Poor should have anything to do with the imposition of rates, the assessment and collection of which would fall into their hands; but they could act as clerks or treasurers to the School Boards.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The principal business in the House of Commons on Monday was the passing of the Navy Estimates, and the criticisms on naval administration thereby evoked. Sir James Eplingstone first occupied the position of censor, and animadverted on the functions of the Lords of the Admiralty, in various respects such as to justify the employment of so many workmen as were estimated for. Lord Henry Lennox also moved to reduce the same vote by the sum proposed to be devoted to the construction of a new mastless turret ship of the Fury type, arguing in favour of the construction of full-rigged cruisers. Mr Goschen replied to these criticisms, and the vote as originally proposed was passed.

TUESDAY, May 20, 1873.

THE PLIMSOLL COMMISSION.

Mr FORTESCUE, in answer to Sir James Eplingstone, recounted the reasons which had been assigned to him by the Duke of Somerset for not making the Commission on Merchant Shipping, of which the Duke is president, an open inquiry.

WEDNESDAY, May 21, NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr Glyn, a new writ was ordered for Richmond (Yorkshire), in the room of Mr Dundas, now Earl of Zetland.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

Mr Fowler's Bill for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act was rejected by a majority of 123.

Foreign and Colonial.

AMERICA.

The seat of the war with Modoc Indians is thus described by a writer in the Nation:—"You will notice in the papers, from day to day, mention of the 'Lava Beds' as the name of the place in which a conflict is now raging between the United States troops and the Modoc Indians. I happen to have received a highly interesting communication from the region referred to, which has produced in my mind a conviction that the Modocs are in a strong position, and that the U. S. troops will have to leave them alone. 'The Lava Beds' form an extensive plain reaching some hundreds of miles each way; but a very curious sort of plain—it can be called a plain at all. It is a vast surface of lava rock, once level, but subsequently fissured and cracked into millions of irregular fissures ramifying in all directions. Imagine a lake of molten lava three or four hundred miles square. Imagine it cooled down almost to stone-hardness; and then suddenly shaken from below and upheaved and cracked all over into a vast intricate web of fissures—some a hundred feet wide, some only a yard wide; most of them from fifty to a hundred and fifty feet deep! Just as this shattering took place, the mass upheaved to have got heated and partially melted again; and then more cooled into the position it now retains. In this veritable labyrinth, this inextricable maze of ravines, the Modocs, who, with the instinct of rabbits in an intricate burrow, appear to be quite at home in the place, may defy a hundred thousand strangers. Not only are these fissures or ravines most singular in shape, but the whole place is honey-combed with caves that frequently communicate with one another for a chain reaching a hundred miles. Rivers and streams run through the clefts; in some instances rivers twice as large as the Liffey running underground reappearing and re-disappearing in a curious way. There is abundance of game and of white lizards to be found; and the Modocs will not starve there, though white men likely enough would."

THE FALL OF KHIVA.

The Daily Telegraph has received confirmatory intelligence of the telegram it published a day or two since of the fall of Khiva, with the additional news that the KHAN is a prisoner, and that the Russians sustained but a slight loss.

Answers to Correspondents.

EXCELSIOR.—The unskilled labour to which we refer in connexion with the reclamation of waste lands is the labour of persons holding land themselves, and not merely working for hire on the land of others. Laing recognises the idea when he says that the first step towards reclaiming a country is to plant it with men.

CRUI.—We shall do more good by trying to establish intelligent relations between Highlanders in all parts of the world than by commencing all at once to "pitch into" those who have been making a prey of our people. What action, for example, are we prepared to take in reference to the evils of which you complain? Before we threaten we must be able to strike the blow. To clamour on the one hand, or to whine on the other, is not the way to right our people and our country. If we succeed in rousing Highlanders to a sense of their duty to one another, and in setting them, shoulder to shoulder, to carry out their own views with spirit, we may expect to be listened to. If you wish us to be heard in your behalf, show that you are yourself prepared to make some sacrifice for your clansmen.

LOCHABER NO MORE.—The gentleman to whom you refer is very "religious"—at least he is very theological and very observant of certain ceremonies; but whether he is a Christian or a Pharisee we do not choose to say. There is reason to believe that he is trying to accomplish what "The Carpenter" pronounced impossible—to "serve God and Mammon."

CAMBRIDGE.—We have had too much already of the practice of adding field to field. Try the experiment of adding to the depth of your farm rather than to the width of it.

ALLAN.—Tell those who are so doubtful regarding the action and motives of others to try the experiment of being manly and generous themselves, and they will find it less difficult to believe that others are capable of something of the same kind. It is a poor thing, for young men in particular, to allow themselves to be educated—by selfishness, distrust, and suspicion—into narrow-minded cynics, shrivelling up their own souls into mere "dried specimens" of humanity.

BREAKFAST.—FRY'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr Fry has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—Civil Service Gazette.—Made simply with boiling Water and Milk. Each packet is labelled—"James Fry & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." MANUFACTURED BY Messrs James Fry & Co., manufacturers of diabetic articles, at their works in the Easton Road, London.—See article in Cassell's Household Guide.

Notes of Interrogation.

CAN any of your readers send me a copy, at your office, of "Din na Firinn?" I don't think it is anywhere in print. W.

WETHER is the clan Mackenzie of Irish or of Scottish extraction. KINTAIL.

ARE the Gaelic witticisms of Fearchar a' ghunna preserved. FARRINAKEACH.

GALGACUS.—Tactius gives us in Latin, the speech which Galgacus delivered (?) to the Caledonians before the battle of "Mons Grampius." Did Tactius know Gaelic (which language, I presume, Galgacus spoke)? If not, who gave the Latin version to Tactius? Did Galgacus do it, or could any of the Caledonians do it? SEVERUS.

"GLENSTRATHFARRAR." What is the correct meaning of "Glenstrathfarrar"? Do the natives speak of the place as "Glenstrath"? If not, who gave it the redundant appellation? EINEANNACH.

ANSWERS TO NOTES OF INTERROGATION.

LATCHE writes, "Chachanudin will find in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Vol. 1, p. 46, more than one attempt at an account of the Highland capital. I would, however, offer as the most satisfactory, that which connects it with Naos, the son of Uisneach. According to legend and tradition, Dearbhuidh, the betrothed of Connor Mac-Nessa, fell in love with Naos, and accompanied him to Albany. He landed at Inverness, built himself a castle there, calling the place *Iubler Naos*. For further security he built another on *Loch Naos*, which is called *Dun Dearbhuidh*—a remarkable confirmation of the etymology given.

For Seth's information, permit me to say that a copy of "Adam and Eve," is in my possession, and that I shall be glad to submit it to the inspection of the curious.

COURT OF SESSION—SECOND DIVISION.

APPEAL—MACDONALD & CO. v. THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

This was an appeal from the Sheriff Court of Invernesshire in an action at the instance of Messrs Macdonald & Co., pastry cooks and confectioners, High Street, Inverness, against the Highland Railway Company. The action concluded for payment of £11 3s 6d, and £14 2s 10d, the price of two different packets of confectionery which were sent by the Messrs Macdonald, on 31st December 1871, to Broadford, in order to be used at the coming of the festivities in honour of Lord Macdonald, and which the railway company failed to deliver timely. The action further concluded for £50 in name of loss and damage. The Sheriff-Substitute gave decree for the first sum, but refused the other two, on the ground that in these two cases that the pursuers had not proved their claim. The Sheriff-Substitute gave the pursuers half their expenses. The Sheriff-Depute (Ivory), on appeal, recalled this judgment, finding that the pursuers had failed on all points, and giving expenses to the defenders. This decision again was appealed to the Court of Session.

On Wednesday their Lordships heard parties' counsel on the appeal, after which the Court unanimously recalled the judgment of Sheriff Ivory, and reverted to that of the Sheriff-Substitute, with the exception of the matter of expenses, their Lordships giving no expenses to either party in the inferior Court, and finding the pursuers entitled to half only of their expenses in the supreme Court.

Counsel for the Appellants—Mr Watson and Mr Macintosh. Agents—Morton, Neilson, & Smart, W.S. Counsel for the Respondents—The Solicitor-General and Mr Lancaster. Agents—H. & A. Inglis, W.S.

GAME LAW COMMITTEE.

This day week, Mr Rimmer, at one time at Montreal as Consul General for Denmark, gave evidence to the effect that, in Canada, game was protected both to encourage the use of firearms, and to supplement the food supplies of the country. Sportsmen made the best volunteers, as their nerves were better strung by shooting deer than by firing at targets. The best shots from the deer forests were sent forth to meet the Penitents, and the first invader was shot dead at 200 yards. In Canada sport was enjoyed by clerks and farmers, who entered largely into the volunteer force; but he admitted that, in this country, the classes who mainly composed the volunteer force had no sporting privileges, and had thus no patriotic motive to maintain the game laws. Ground game was not so abundant in Canada as to be a nuisance, and although deer was numerous and well protected, the farmer was at liberty to shoot them when they damaged his crops. He held that the game laws were a great benefit to this country, and that the land could be made to yield twice its present produce, with the present head of game. Chester, where he resided, was supplied with a 1000 rabbits weekly, which were a great boon to the poor. He would be inclined to give tenants an interest in game by allowing them to lease it. He was favourable to the question being discussed in the Agricultural papers, but deprecated the spirit in which it was treated in the *Anti-Game Law Circular*.

MR MACRAE MOIR.

Mr Macrae Moir, barrister, and a well-known Scotchman, is a candidate for the office of Town-Clerk for the city of London, and he has received, amongst numerous others, a testimonial from Mr Thomas Carlyle. The Scottish Hospital have just met, and passed a resolution strongly recommending him for the appointment. The resolution is signed by the Prince of Wales and others.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING-ROOM.

MACGUFFY'S HOTEL,
LONDON, May 5th, 1873.

MY DEAR SANDY MACKENZIE,—

Me and my wife and daughter, and John, my son, was here about the Game Committee, as you know, and we got a grand chance this day. Maybe the minister will like to know as well as yourself all that we saw and heard, so you may tell the minister and Charles Mackenzie and Donald Macgillivray and any other lads that you meet in the clachan. I'm sure they will like as well to hear about the Queen's drawing-room as we did ourselves. Well then, as I was going about this morning before breakfast I noticed a lid opening a big coach-house door in the place that's at the back of the house that we lodge in. He pulled out a grand coach, and says I to him—says I, "that's a grand carriage; who will be the owner of that?" He was a civil lad, as ever you saw in Inverness; and he told me the name of the gentleman, and, what's more, he told me that the family was going to the Queen's drawing-room. So home I went to my breakfast, and told Mary, my wife, all that I had found out about the grand sight that was to be. Mary has friends in London, and that's why she came when I was sent for about the game. "Well," says Mary to me, "I was at my cousin's place yesterday, and I saw one of the grand dresses that is to be worn this day at the Queen's drawing-room, and that's better than seeing a coach. The dress will cost more than twenty-five pounds, and its for a young lassie; and, what's more," says Mary, "Maggie is going to see the dress upon the young lady herself, and I am going with her and my cousin the dressmaker." My son John said nothing till he had all done, and then says he, "Mother, I have been to our cousin that's in the plate department at the palace, and he knows all the people about the place, and I am going to see all the ladies and all the dresses and all the ceremony in the Queen's drawing-room itself." "Well, well," says I, "I'll go and see the whole procession of carriages, with all the ladies, in all the dresses, inside, and maybe that will be as good a sight as any of you will see this day."

You see, Sandy, while I was thinking of the business that brought me to London, they were thinking of "vanity and vexation of spirit," but so it always is with the young and foolish, more especially the young of the weaker sex. But, now I'll tell you what we all saw.

About twelve o'clock, or it may be a good few minutes before, I saw a bit bonny lassie and her mother driving past in a carriage with two grand grey horses in it, down towards the palace, and I thought it was time for me to go that way if I wanted to see any of the show. So off I goes dauntering down the streets, and looking into all the carriages to see the fine ladies that were going to the Queen's drawing-room. Oh man but there was plenty of them, and preserve me but they were bonny. And Oh! but they were patient, good natured, grand folk. The carriages made "a string" as the policemen called it. The first carriage that got to the palace gate had to wait there, because the gate was shut, and the next had to wait behind that, because it could not get through the back of it, and the next was behind that. And so from the palace gate to the end of the string there was a row of carriages just like a row of carts drawing peats to the distillery, one behind the other for more than a mile. But Oh! Sandy, the sight that I saw that day in that string, "the diamonds and the gold chains, and the feathers, and the laces, and the laces, and the faces that were inside of these carriages, I never shall forget till I am on my way to Cill na Manach, up the glen. I am sure it was more than two hours by the watch, before the first carriage got in at the gate, and me looking at the ladies all that time; and they told me that there was more than five strings all drawing people in one way from all airts. I am sure there was near about a thousand carriages, and two thousand horses, and three thousand men, drawing more than a thousand ladies, in dresses that cost more than twenty-five notes, to the Queen's drawing-room this day. I know well enough that the minister will say that it's all vanity and vexation of spirit, but, Oh! man, it was a grand sight. There was a decent lad, an Englishman there, that spoke to me, seeing I was a stranger, and he said that it was good for trade. I'm sure I don't know that, but I must get a new handkerchief, for I lost mine some way near the palace door. I asked many people, but nobody found it. There I was till it was near about six, and the carriages was still taking the company home. What a grand ceremony it must have been inside, thought I to myself. When I got home there were Mary, my wife and Maggie, my daughter, before me, and my cousin, the dressmaker, who had come to tea, and they had a grand story for me. "John," said Mary, "I never thought to see so pretty a sight in this dirty black town. Me and my cousin, and Maggie went to the house of the lady that my cousin made the dress for, and Oh! but she was pretty and nice. I did not need to be told that she was from our own country, she was so kind and conthick; and there was all the servants on the stairs ready to see the young lady, and there in the drawing-room was her friends. There was a grand old lady that was her grandmother, and there was her aunt, and her cousins, and three or four bit lassies, and the governess and some young hussies that was at the school with the young lady that was going to be presented, and me and Maggie got leave to be in there with the rest. Down came the lady after a bit all in white, with a bit rose here and a bit ribbon there, and her hair all shining, and a bit of a star of diamonds glittering amongst it; and more, John," said Mary, "it put me in mind of the day when I was a bride, and you

were a braw young lad yourself. Hoots! Mary, said I, I'm not so old," and I am not nearly so aged as she is, that's a fact, as you know and she knows, but Mary will have her joke against me. "Well," said Mary, "the young lady stood there in all her braws talking so kindly, and then came her mother in a dress that cost more than fifty notes, and ah, but we were proud to see how pleased they all were with my cousin's work. About twelve, the ladies got into their coach at the door, and away they went straight to the Queen's drawing-room." There was a great heap of people at the door to see them go.

"I'm sure they were tired waitin' in the string," said I, "What's a string?" said Mary. "If you had been with me," said I, you would know what is a string. I was looking at the ladies in the string myself for two hours by the watch." While we were all drinking our tea and talking this way, in comes John, my son, and maybe he had the best story of us all.

"I never saw a house like you palace, said he. There's front stairs and back stairs in it, and there's doors like other doors, and doors that you would think were tables with crockery on them but the're doors and they open, and those that know the ways of the house can get anywhere and see everything, and I saw all the ceremony, and nobody knew where I was or saw me." Well then, says I, let's hear all about it.

"When I got there my cousin put me at one of the windows up stairs, and showed me the soldiers keeping guard, and the policemen guarding the soldiers, and all the carriages coming in with the company, and that was a grand sight to see in the square. After a bit we got down to the big door, and we saw the ladies getting out at the door, and going into a grand dark marble room as big as the church. We could see the company going up the front stair, with grand beef eaters and soldiers on each side guarding them from the enemy, but I did not see the enemy anywhere. After a bit we got up the back stair, and looked down through a window into a grand room as big as the cathedral at Inverness, which my cousin told me was the ballroom. "And will they be dancing the Highland fling down there?" says I. "Yes," says he, "and reels, and country dances, and the pipe stands over there beside the Queen's throne." And what's all these benches at the end?" says I. "Oh, that's for the band, says he, but I never care about the band myself." Well, the ballroom was full of the grandest ladies that ever you saw in all your life, sitting in chairs like people at the sermon, and gentlemen in red coats, with cocked hats, going up and down and talking to them. "There's four or five rooms full of them," said my cousin; "but we must go, or we'll not see the Queen's room." So we got back from the window to the roof of the ball-room, and down through dark places till we got to the back of a door, and there I was made to look in. "I'll never forget that," said John, my son. "There, forenent me, was the Queen's own room, and all the grandees walking and talking so fine and free, for all the world like the drovers at the market." "And what's that man in the kilt?" said I to my cousin. "That's Mac Calain M'or," said he. Oh! but I was proud to see the kilt on him. "Arch ponnal," said my cousin to me in Gaelic. "Scotch," said I; "and who is that grand lady near him?" "Ban B'arla Chataubh," said he. Oh! man, but I was proud to see my kinswoman standing there in her Majesty's own room with her head all over diamond stars, with a cover on the top of it. "And who else did you see of our friends?" said my wife. "Well, mother, I cannot remember; but there will be a list in the papers to-morrow morning, and you can see for yourself." When we had been looking a while, in came the Queen. "God bless her!" said I. "Aye, God bless her," said all of us at once; and there came the Princess of Wales and all the other grandees and the Queen's young son with the kilt on him, and they stood in a row forenent the place where I was, looking over a table with a big jug upon it full of nothing at all.

Well, as soon as the grandees were in there places, the first of the company came in—the ladies with long trains, as long as a plaid trailing after them on the floor, and they beaked and howled, and passed on, one after the other, so fast that I could hardly see them. "What's all these grand ladies?" said I to my cousin. "That's the Ambassadors' wives and daughters, Russians and Proosians and Turks and Spaniards and Italians and Americans, and people from all parts of the earth, come to see the Queen." "And well they might," said Mary my wife. And there was the master of the ceremonies and the Lord Chamberlain, saying their names; and all the Cabinet Ministers in gold-laced coats with swords were standing forenent the Queen, taking the turns off of the trains and picking them up for the ladies. After a while came some Indians, with shawls and turbans and bewigons on, and the grand turk with a red Kilnarmock cowl on his head, and all the Ambassadors bowing to the Queen and the grandees. "I'm sure they would," said I. "And then," said John, "the grand ladies began to pass in order, bending down to the Queen, and some she kissed, and some kissed her hand, and, Oh, but it was very pretty to see the young ladies all in white bending and bowing and saluting the Queen. I never saw anything to beat that, and I never will. But some of them was frightened, I could see that well enough." "And no wonder," said Mary. "I would not be frightened," said Maggie. "I'm sure that the Queen would see in my face that I would die for her, and your father would fight for her, and I'm sure she would just shake hands with me kindly, and look pleased to see me. If she comes to our glen I'm sure nobody there will be frightened at the Queen—God

bless her; and I'll tie your plaid round my shoulders for a court dress." "You're no brave Maggie," said my wife; "and that's true, she is a late lassie, and fears nothing."

"But John," said I, "there must have been a great many of these grand ladies when they were all together." "Well," said John, "they told me that there was near about twelve hundred of them passed before the Queen and the grandees. They were more than two hours by the watch, walking past; and if they were all in a row in their order as they walked, there would have been two miles and a-half of them in it."

"Well, well!" said I, "that's wonderful!" "Aye," said John, who has been learning figures. "I was trying to reckon up the cost of the show, but it beat me. I'm sure that each lady's dress was worth more than fifty pounds, and some of their diamond crowns was worth more than ten thousand pounds, as my cousin said to me, and he knows well. And then there's the worth of all the horses and coaches, and the clothes of all the servants, and their posies of flowers. And then there were all the workpeople that got money for the work done, and all the innkeepers and housekeepers and shopkeepers that lodged and fed them all; and the gold-diggers and diamond-diggers that worked for all the braw things that other people made for the ladies to wear when they walked before the Queen."

"Father," said John, "it beats me to count up the worth of that show, but I am sure it was good for trade." "Faith, John," said I, "it may be all vanity and vexation of spirit to some folk, but I think there was something good in it. The people that saw the show in the streets were well pleased, and the people that saw the Queen and the show inside were well pleased, and the ladies were pleased, and the Queen was pleased, I'm sure; and I am well pleased to have seen the Queen's drawing-room this day, myself, though I am not fond of vanities."

I'm sure you will be pleased to hear about it Sandy; and so I wrote this letter to tell you. If you hear any clashes about extravagance and nonsense and the Republic, just you tell the folk what I tell you, and that's the truth about the Queen's drawing-room. It is just the grandest sight in the world, and it's good for the world to be free of fights and have time for shows, and good for trade, as the man said to me in the street, and as John said when he came home.

I am,
Your affectionate brother,
JOHN MACKENZIE.

P.S.—We will be coming home soon. Just step over to my house and tell the grieve to mind the farm or that I'll mind him when I get to him.

HARES AND RABBITS.

We do not calculate on getting much accurate information from the Game Law Committee until the report is printed. There are, however, some figures which may stimulate, if they do not satisfy curiosity with regard to the importance of hare and rabbit skins in manufacturing industry. Mr Samuel Peck, a gentleman engaged in the business of preparing skins for hatters, said that from the books of his firm and other sources, he had ascertained that about two million hare skins were annually used up in this country, about one million tame rabbit skins, and about seventeen million wild rabbits. A good many skins came from Scotland, and a few from Ireland. The trade was chiefly carried on in London, though it was pursued in half-a-dozen other towns also. Ten million skins were exported in addition to the twenty million used in Great Britain, making thirty million in all. Prices had risen to 3s a dozen for hare and rabbit skins together, wild or tame. The skin of the tame rabbit was worth more than that of the wild, being larger. Skins of the silver grey rabbits were sent abroad, and were worth about a shilling each. Eighty fur cutting machines were employed in London and the provinces, each cutting up 420 dozen skins per week, making 20,160,000 per annum. Each machine employed 25 workpeople on the premises, or about 2000 altogether, earning in wages about £1120 per week, or about £40,000 per annum. He reckoned that 30,000,000 skins would be worth about £500,000; and at 3 lbs. per carcase there would be more than 40,000 tons per annum; and taking the hares and tame rabbits at 2s, they would give £450,000, and the wild rabbits £1,275,000—making in all £1,725,000. This firm had commenced to breed rabbits by putting 50 on a two-acre field of poor grass, and would be glad to report the result. He could not say if two rabbits would increase to two millions in two years, as one of the members of committee had been told.

The question is very likely to arise out of all this, whether it would not be a good thing to take up the breeding and fattening of rabbits as a regular business, particularly in those sandy, gravelly regions, where they seem to be indigenous, and where next to nothing else will thrive. This would be a simple and satisfactory way of making property of them. He who kept and tended them within his own fences would never be assailed as an over-preserver of game; and he who encroached upon the preserve would be regarded as something considerably worse than a poacher.

If you court a young woman, and she is won and you are won, then you are both one.

A lady wishes some one would invent a legometer to attach to men's pedals, that wives may determine the distance travelled by their husbands when they want to "just step down to the post office" of an evening.

General News.

CARRIAGES exclusively for ladies travelling alone in railway trains are advocated by the *Freeman*.

THE Highland Society of London held its quarterly dinner at the Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich, on Saturday, Dr W. F. Ramsay presided.

THE West Yorkshire Miners' Union has voted £500 to the Plimsoll Defence Fund.

DEATH OF DR PAUL, EDINBURGH.—Dr Paul, minister of St Cuthbert's Established Church, Edinburgh, died on Saturday morning rather unexpectedly.

THE LATE MR J. S. MILL.—Earl Russell, Sir John Lubbock, Mr Fitzjames Stephen, Professors Huxley, Fawcett, M.P., and Jowett have joined the Committee formed to organise a national testimonial to Mr J. S. Mill.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR SHREWSBURY.—In the inquiry into the fatal railway accident at Condover, near Shrewsbury, the coroner's jury yesterday returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that there was no evidence to show the cause of the breaking of the axle of the engine.

The following are the names of the Select Committee to inquire into the facts of the controversy between Mr O'Keefe and the Board of National Education in Ireland:—Mr Cardwell (chairman), Mr Whitbread, The O'Conor Don, Mr Bourke, and Mr Gathorne Hardy.

MR FAWCETT thinks a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the best means of reducing the present inequalities of our electoral system, and is to move on an early day for the appointment of such a Commission.

MR CHARLES READE is gathering materials for a new novel, to be founded on the grievances which Mr Plimsoll so zealously champions. The novel will be based on facts gleaned by the learned author from personal interviews he had with English mariners.

THE annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund was held in London on Saturday evening. Mr Froude presided, and in proposing the toast of the evening, paid a high compliment to the enterprise, the impartiality, and the power of the press in the present day. Donations were announced amounting to between £1200 and £1300.

EMIGRATION OF MINERS.—A return to an order of the House of Commons of the number of miners and quarrymen who have left the United Kingdom in passenger ships in each year since 1861, gives the following comparison:—1862, 1720; 1863, 3220; 1864, 3266; 1865, 5643; 1866, 6030; 1867, 5641; 1868, 8500; 1869, 9913; 1870, 4769; 1871, 5272; 1872, 5569—total in eleven years, 59,543.

ANTHOLOGY OF SACRED LITERATURE.—Mr Moncreuf Conway is preparing for publication a work of very considerable interest. It is an Anthology of Sacred Literature. It will consist of extracts from the sacred writings of various nations, such as the Vedas, and the books of Menu, Zoroaster, and Confucius, and also selections from the Bible. The whole will be contained in one volume, published by Triibner.

THE Marquis of Lorne has suggested to the Archbishop of Canterbury the desirability of a fund being raised large enough to make it certain that the incumbent of every living should have at the least £200 a year, and has expressed the willingness of the Princess Louise and herself to aid in the establishment of such a fund. The Archbishop has replied, gratefully acquiescing in the scheme.

NEW CURE FOR CANCER.—Some attention has been aroused in the *Medical World* by the treatment of cancer which is now being pursued in London. The doctor who has introduced this method is a Hungarian, named Grob. He contends that cancer is not a local, but a general disease; that it arises from the presence of a poison in the constitution, and that the knife will never cure the disease, but only postpone its fatal effect. His remedy consists in setting up another disease—fever—under the influence of which the blood poison which causes the cancer, is thrown off. We are told that he has made some marvellous cures.

WOOING BY PROXY.—A case of "love at first sight," of a rather remarkable kind, has occurred at Dysart. A worthy parishioner of Marlinch having been smitten by the charms of a fair maid, had not courage enough to press his suit, but engaged a female friend to act the "lover's" part for him. This she did to perfection, told the maid how her friend had proposed through her. The couple are each beyond 60 years of age, and the other day, by proxy wooting, they met at the altar, and now, enjoy "love in a cottage" in their happy old age.

UNFRIENDLY CAMPBELLS.—At the Paisley Justice of Peace Court yesterday—Mr James Barelay on the bench—Duncan Chappell, joiner, residing in Glasgow, was charged with having assaulted Alex. Campbell, joiner, Tarbert, on Tuesday afternoon, in a carriage of the Caledonian Railway Company, while travelling between Greenock and Bishopston. The two men, who spoke Gaelic, and although strangers to each other, belonged originally to the same place, entered into an animated discussion of affairs Celtic, but the younger Campbell losing his temper with the elder Campbell, struck him several severe blows on the face. He was fined 20s, with the choice of suffering ten days imprisonment.—*Evening Star*.

LAW SUIT BETWEEN THE DUKE OF ARGYLL AND THE EARL OF BREADALBANE.—An action of proving the tenor, at the instance of the Duke of Argyll against the Earl of Breadalbane, was heard in the Second Division of the Court of Session, on Saturday, evidence in the case having been led some time ago. The pursuer sought to prove the tenor of a sub-valuation of the parish of Kilmiver in 1629. The Court decided in the pursuer's favour, finding that the tenor of the sub-valuation libelled had been sufficiently established.

PEACE AND WAR.—A conference of delegates from Trade and other Societies in Scotland was held on Monday in Glasgow in connection with the Workmen's Peace Association. Resolutions were adopted condemning war, and approving arbitration. A committee was appointed to petition the House of Commons in favour of Mr Henry Richard's motion. Another meeting of a similar character was held in London last night, at which the same objects were advocated, and similar resolutions adopted.

FORTHCOMING WORKS BY THE LATE MR J. S. MILL.—We are enabled to intimate that Mr Mill has left a full autobiography, with directions that it shall be published without delay. He has also left treatises on "Nature," "Theism," and the "Utility of Religion," the first of which was to have been published in the present year. Arrangements will now be made for their speedy appearance. The last production of his pen was a tract for the Land Tenure Reform Association, which will be placed in the hands of the Committee for immediate publication.—*Daily News*.

SNAKES EXORCISED BY BAGPIPES IN AUSTRALIA.—It appears (remarks the *Brisbane Courier*) that the frightful effect of the sound of the bagpipes is not confined to human beings, but is death to the snake tribe. The *Morborough Chronicle* says:—Here's the latest snake story. We do not vouch for its authenticity. Mrs P. was thrown into a state closely bordering on hysteria by her little girl crying out that a huge snake had gone under the house. The alarm was soon spread. The neighbours assembled, and assisted Mrs P. in searching for the unwelcome visitor. They were unsuccessful, and in despair. Happy thought! Some one remembered that "music hath charms." Mr H. was prevailed upon to visit the scene, and stand behind with his bagpipes. Before a dozen bars had been played, his snake-spit made his appearance, to the delight of the charmer and the terror of the ladies and children. Mr H. retreated, still playing, and the fascinated reptile followed. When about twenty yards from the house the musician struck up "Love among the roses." The snake reared himself on high, darted out his tongue savagely, fell over with a gurgle, and expired—lying as he had sniled. This was something like a snake.—*Evening Star*.

A CRACK.—No. I.

A HIGHLAND savage, whom adverse fate had sent to the Isle of Wight, was dozing half awake on a fine summer morning, when his bodily eye fell on a crooked black line upon the white wall of his bed-room. Gradually the faculties which did duty for his mind began to look out through the half-opened shutters of his eyes, and "take notice." The savage awoke to the consciousness of hunger. At last his animal instincts and cravings overcame his natural laziness so far that he rolled out of bed to eat. It is known to civilised men that all savages are curious, and this was a curious creature. While he clad his limbs in the hated garments of the Saxon, his eye, first directed by chance, got fixed by the force of habit upon the black line; and finally it was conveyed somehow to all that was human intelligence within the creature, that he was looking at a crack in the wall. Custom and conservative habit act strongly upon the Celtic character. The great, he could not stop thinking. That crack had got into his head through his eyes, and there it remained, while the man devoured luxuries to which he was unused. He had an egg for breakfast, and it was not fresh; but he did not find that out till the egg was cracked. He bought a genteel cheap cigar, and the leaf cracked. He went out to smoke, and looked lazily up at the wall of the house, and lo! there was a crack meandering from the top of the house to the bottom. "Waiter," he cried. "Yes; comin', s'r," and he came. "What's that crack on the wall of the house?" "Oh crack, s'r? yes; don't know, s'r. Comin';" and off bolted the active Anglo-Saxon, who had no time to think about cracks. There was a crash. The active attendant had tripped over the pavement of a passage, and he dropped a plate. The floor was cracked, and the crockery was smashed. The active Anglo-Saxon was in an attitude of despair. "More hurry, worse speed." The traveller paid his bill, tipped the waiter, put on his pack, and marched on his way beside the sea. He had not gone far before his eye fell upon a crack in the foot-path. "Confound it," he said to himself, "everything here seems to be cracked." A coast-guardman came sauntering along the path, and said "Good mornin'." He said it in such a tone that the traveller answered in Gaelic. The jackdaws fled; the sheep must have thought the men cracked, for their hideous jargon made the very air suffer with discordant gutturals and grunts, which seemed, nevertheless, to be music in their ears. The sum of their talk amounted to another crack. The traveller went round the undercliff, and round the Isle of Wight, and everywhere he saw things which had got into his head through his eyes, before he was well awake. The paths round the cliff were all cracked, and some of them had opened, so that one side of the path had sunk. Some paths had

sunk bodily down so far that cautious passengers had to make new paths higher up. A great bit of ground, with a house upon it, had cracked off and tumbled into the sea, and had been washed right away. The whole town of Ventnor and the undercliff were cracked more or less. The cliff was but one side of an old crack, bigger than the rest, and the undercliff was the top of the other side, sunk down, and broken and cracked in sinking. "This whole island is cracked, or I am," said the traveller to himself.

Returned to London, the whole of that great world's shop was cracked too. The ground in Hyle Park was cracked; the people who walked upon the ground and spouted treason, and preached blasphemy, and recited mock Litanies, which were not only blasphemous but idiotic, seemed to be worse cracked than the ground. The walls of great houses, and great stone pillars from Mill, were seen to be cracked from top to bottom, and nobody seemed to care. Cracks ran parallel to the course of the river Thames for miles, appearing on the sides of all walls that cross the cracks. Down in the coal countries the miners are undermining, and the surface is cracking everywhere. Men and masters are like their ground. Up in Scotland it is the same. All round the coast the hills are cracking and falling into the sea; all through the country the hills are cracked, and quarrymen know it by joints and fissures in the rock. The very people seem to be infected by the epidemic. Are not agitator-setting landlords and tenants by the ears that they may prosper, while the others crack each other's skulls. Is not every man undermining his neighbour that he may overthrow him and step on him to rise? Go further north, and go round the world as it is described in the daily papers, and the whole of it seems to be as cracked as the shell of the Saxon egg, which the Highland savage did not eat, in the Isle of Wight. Here it is an earthquake; there it is a revolution; elsewhere a landslide; or the rise of a coast bodily out of the sea, together with all that is on the land; or it is a geological crack that runs through New Zealand with a heave or a ship, leaving the surface like the sailor's path round the undercliff; or it is Europe, which marches upon Asia, or splits up and fights by nations; or a nation which breaks in two, like France; or a city divided against itself, like Paris; or a house split from bottom to top like the house in which that unfortunate Highlander first saw a black line on a white wall, and was idiot enough to begin to think.

Now, my Highland friends of *The Highlander*, think of eggs and cracks at this Easter tide. Unless the egg shell is cracked, the chick cannot get out, and the man cannot get in to "The little wee housey, fo' meat, and there's neither door nor window to get in to eat."

If you are cracking the shell and coming out, opening your eyes, and yawning, and stretching and awakening to the knowledge that you have got some dormant faculties which do duty for minds within your Highland bodies, think cautiously, look out for cracks in the way, and try not to fall into cracks—geological or metaphysical—when you begin your cracks with the world. FALITE.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HIGHLANDER.

THE BRAMBLE.

SIR,—In my travels through this country I perceive a luxuriant growth of bramble, particularly in spots in which hardly anything else would grow. I know numbers of places in the Highlands besides this locality in which brambles abound, and in which the fruit comes to a high degree of perfection. I need not say that bramble-berry jelly is both good and delicious; for every one knows it. Brambles, then, would seem to be easily cultivated, and the produce highly valued; but, strange to say, no one seems to think the plant worthy of any attention. We have developed crabs into rich apples, sloes into plums, the acid potato into the laughing murrhy. Turnips and cabbages, not to speak of the endless modifications of flower-yielding plants, may be said to be the work of our own hands. Now, it surprises me a good deal that no one has taken the bramble and placed it under conditions likely to develop the fruit. On a very little reflection, it would seem as if we might regard it as occupying in this country a place analogous to that held by the vine in grape-growing countries—only, that we do not give it the justice which the vine receives in France, Italy, and Greece. I do not see why we should not have our rocky precipices, our cottages, and our garden walls beautifully hung with bramble bushes, having, in autumn, black clusters of rich fruit. I do not mean merely such berries as we now see, but fruit as much superior to the present, as the apple is to the crab, or the plum to the sloe. I hold that the bramble, a hardy plant, indigenous to our soil, seems as if intended by the Giver to be of large and particular use to us, and that we should take steps to cultivate it so as to make it yield us all that it was intended to afford us. You speak of Highlanders making use of the advantages they possess, instead of looking afar for what they have not. Will you carry out your own principle, and urge your people to set about the proper cultivation and utilization of the bramble.

In the meantime, perhaps some one has been doing what I have been thus imagining. If so, perhaps you or some one of your readers would be so good as to inform me and the public what has been done, how it has been done, and what the result is. At the very least, if one of the fruits produced by our part of the country, should have a fair chance given to it—equal to that which we have given to the potato and the crab.

TOM BRAMBLE.

NETMAKING AND UPHOLSTERY.
ANDREW FRASER & CO., CABINETMAKERS,
 Cabinet-makers, and Upholsterers, No. 7, FINCH STREET, LONDON, E.C., respectfully request Parties FURNISHING to inspect their Stock of Dining Room, Drawing room, Bed room, &c. &c. UPHOLSTERY, which for quality of Workmanship and Material, combined with moderate Prices, cannot be excelled.

TEA. Buy direct from the Importer. Three Fronts saved, viz. Brokers, Merchants, and the Retail Grocer. Just arrived, Scotch's new season Blended Congou. A Chest of 14 lbs. sent carriage free to any address, on receipt of P.O. for 24s. 6d. 20 lb. Chest, 48s. 6d. 30 lb. Chest, 72s. 6d. HARGRAVE'S Importer. (Imported from 26 and 27 lb. 10s. as Grocers sell 26 and 4s.)

CIGARS.—Buy direct from the Importer and save 50 per cent. The well-known President Brand has the reputation of being the best. It is a rich flavoured Brand. It is sold in 100's, 250's, 500's, and 1000's; full flavoured 28c.; Full Imperials 25c. 6d.; this brand is never sold by tobaccoists under 42s. per box. Each of the above CIGARS contain 1000 cigars. Numerous other Brands, such as the "Star," "Chief," "Gold," "Diamond," "All Stars," &c. All can be sent C.G. or Home Importer, 27, Abchurch Lane, London.

LONDON AGENCY.—A Firm of GENERAL MANAGERS, having the advantage of the best and most complete facilities for advertising in LONDON, and a complete staff of experienced and efficient agents, are enabled to execute all the work of an Advertising Agency in London, and to carry out all the work of an Advertising Agency in London, and to carry out all the work of an Advertising Agency in London.

The London and West of Scotland Correspondent, Fraser & Co., Drapers, Establishments in Edinburgh.

NEW SPRING STOCK HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.

M'LAREN, SON, & CO. are showing their NEW DESIGNS in Carpets, Linoleums, &c. &c. in the most extensive and complete manner. Their Stock is now so large that they can supply any quantity of goods in the most prompt manner. Their prices are respectively 10 per cent. below the market. They are respectively 10 per cent. below the market. They are respectively 10 per cent. below the market.

BIRSELLS CARPETS. Manufactured for M'LAREN, SON & CO. by the best weavers in the world. The quality of the materials is of the highest, and the quality of the workmanship is of the highest. They are respectively 10 per cent. below the market.

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HEATHRUGS, CARPET, FLOOR CLOTHS, MATS, MATTINGS, &c. of every description.

LINOLEUMS. "SWEET, WATER, AND NOISELESS." This material is the most highly recommended for Kitchens, Parlour Offices, and Bathrooms. It is the most durable of being as strong as Cast Iron, and as light as Air, and it is as fire proof as any material yet produced. Sold at the Square Yard, and every Length cut.

CRETONE CHINTIZES. M'LAREN, SON & CO'S Stock includes all the NEWEST TONES, STRIPES, and PICTURES. As Commodities have been made regarding the Colours not being Sound, *Etc. Etc.* in this Stock have been made, and they are now being sold.

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IRON BEDS. Manufactured for M'LAREN, SON & CO. by the best weavers in the world. The quality of the materials is of the highest, and the quality of the workmanship is of the highest. They are respectively 10 per cent. below the market.

SPRING MATTRESSES. The "HAMMOND" PATENT SPRING MATTRESS is acknowledged to be "The most Comfortable Bed made." It is made of all the advantages of other spring mattresses, such as Comfort, Cleanliness, Elasticity, Durability, &c. &c. in this Stock have been made, and they are now being sold.

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M'LAREN, SON, & CO., EDINBURGH. are showing their NEW DESIGNS in Carpets, Linoleums, &c. &c. in the most extensive and complete manner. Their Stock is now so large that they can supply any quantity of goods in the most prompt manner. Their prices are respectively 10 per cent. below the market.

SPECIAL SHIRT ANNOUNCEMENT.
 SUMMER HARVARD AND DRESS SHIRTS.
 WE have just received a large consignment of our special HARVARD SHIRTS. We have arranged to have those Select Patterns SUBMITTED TO OUR TRIAL, and have already 114 large number of them. The Cloth is beautifully plain and pleasant for Summer Wear, and quite superior to anything yet shown in Coloured Shirts. Price 7s. 6d. each, or two Guineas for a Pair of Half-length, dressed and ready for Use. A Box sent on approval to any address, on receipt of size of Colour.
 We have also just delivered a fine Stock of Sew DRESS SHIRTS, made to order, all sizes.
Perfect Fit guaranteed. A Sample Order solicited.
MACKENZIE BROTHERS,
 TAILORS AND GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTERS,
 CLACHINAUBIN HOUSE,
 Inverness, 24th May 1873.

To Correspondents.

All communications for the Editor to be addressed "Editor, Highlander, Inverness." For the Editor and business correspondence, Highland Office, Exchange Place, Inverness.
 We cannot undertake to return, or to enter into correspondence regarding rejected communications.
 All MSS. intended for insertion must be written on one side only of the paper.
 All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not to be used for publication but as an evidence of good faith. Anonymous communications will receive no attention.

It is not merely by direct evidence, crimes, murders, and the like we want reported. We want to see Highlanders everywhere acquainted with one another, and with every part of their own country. We want the people to be better informed, and the capabilities of our people made known, and whoever they are best fitted to be the best account, we want to know why. We want to inform our readers in regard to the land, the fisheries, the minerals, the water power, the coal power, the people, and the administrative power of the stewards who hold the nation's property in their hands. Then there are the views of the people themselves in regard to these and other things, the traditions, the legends, the antiquities, the habits, the customs, the peculiarities of race, which exist in the Highlands. These things are essential elements in our history, and the recognition of them in literature and philosophy will help to improve our people with some of the highest of which the world has ever seen. The Editor of this paper has done his utmost to give a full and complete account of things presented to his notice and comment from week to week.

The Highlander.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1873.

It rightly referred, Mr Broek, who gave evidence before the Game Law Committee, gave expression to an idea which ought to receive some attention from a class of persons who may not have thought much on the subject of game. Mr McCombie asked, "Do you think the landlord's game should be allowed to eat up the tenant's crops?" Mr Broek is represented to have answered, "That depends upon circumstances." Now, it would be worth while knowing under what circumstances this gentleman would consider it right to have the crops eaten up by game. Probably, if the land were let under value, he would say that the tenant could not afford to suffer the loss; or, that the game might eat or destroy any quantity of crop provided the tenant received compensation.

This is not the only shape in which the idea comes up, that the game question is one merely between landlords and tenants, witnesses forgetting that there is a third great class concerned in the matter. If it is left, as Mr Broek seems to think it should be, between the proprietors and the farmers, they may compose their own differences, and the consumers, who are interested in the utmost being made of the land, and the largest amount of food being sent into market, may go to the wall.

The game question is one in which the whole nation is deeply interested; and the commercial, the manufacturing, and the industrious classes in our towns must see for themselves that it is settled to their satisfaction, as well as to the satisfaction of the farmers and the landlords. We are willing to assume, until the contrary is proved, that the landlords and the tenants are desirous of settling the matter in an equitable manner, but we are quite sure that it is all the more likely to be so settled if the third great party steps in and insists upon the claims of the consumers being recognized.

It is all very well for the landlords to stop the mouths of the tenants, or forces, or with compensation to be secured for the farmers to bear the loss, but then they will not be able to do so, but, meantime, the consumers who have not access to the land themselves, will find a great deal of game, which landlords and tenants should send into market.

We are in no haste to plunge into politics. Not that we are insensible to the importance of political movements, or to the interest attached to party tactics. Our concern in the meantime is regarding the attitude and action of our own people. We do not feel satisfied that they have hitherto availed themselves of their rights and privileges to such a degree as to command for them or for us a very ready hearing in high places. There is too much reason to think that they have shrunk, to a reprehensible degree, from using the means at their disposal for returning to Parliament men according to their own hearts. And so long as this can be said of them with any considerable degree of truth, we fear their political utterances, or ours, will be of little weight.

There is no blinking the fact, that most of our constituencies are represented by men who came forward as candidates, not only without solicitation, but without any great chance of a general requisition ever reaching them. They may be the right men in the right places; but if they are, it is much more a matter of chance than of good management on the part of the electors. We cannot refer to such a number of really called and chosen men among the representatives of Highland constituencies as would suffice to redeem us from the discredit of being, to a large extent, mere stepping stones for gentlemen who ambition Parliamentary honours.

Whatever excuse we may have had in times past for this dereliction of duty, there can be none in the future. We know that tenants, in numbers of instances, declined to give effect to their views, through fear of their landlords. Artizans did the same, through fear of their employers. We have even heard of good men and true being deterred from acting up to their own political convictions, through a foolish fear of their best friends, the bankers. We speak of fears, not of the grounds which may or may not have existed. If such grounds did exist, they can hardly exist much longer. If they did not exist, it was a bad compliment to act on the supposition that gentlemen would use their social, commercial, or territorial powers, to prevent their humbler fellow-subjects from using their undoubted political rights.

Now, under the Ballot we are justified in looking for something quite different. It must not, however, be left to the Ballot, as if it were an active power, to put new life into old bodies. All the Ballot will do is to protect those who break through the old habit of being afraid. We must bear in mind, though, that habits are not to be shaken off at a word or a wish; and that even under the protection of the Ballot, some positive action is called for, to impress the electors with a proper sense of their responsibility and safety, to ensure their having a fair choice of men for whom to vote, and to inspire them with the requisite courage and confidence in one another.

This is not to be deferred until we are on the verge of an election. Before that, we should have our forces inspired with renewed courage and enthusiasm. There should be a good understanding established among them, and they should be well organized and disciplined, all ready for the work.

When they have done this work with spirit and intelligence, their word and ours will have weight wherever it is heard.

We hope to return to the subject. In the meantime, we would ask our burgh constituencies in particular, to think of these things, and set a good example to their friends in the rural districts, for whom it is not so easy to act in concert.

It is stated that the town companies of Inverness Volunteers will go into camp on the 5th of June at a park at Clodden.

We understand that the handsome new hotel erected at Garloch has been taken on lease by Mr James Munro of the London House, Inverness.

FRIDAY.—On Saturday evening while several boys were playing themselves about a barn belonging to Mr Fisheloh, James Street, one of them lit a match and accidentally set fire to some straw lying about. The consequence was a large conflagration, involving considerable loss to the owner of the premises. The whole was burned down, and was not insured.

PUBLIC DINNER AND PRESENTATION TO JOHN MURDOCH, ESQ.,

LATE SUPERVISOR OF INLAND REVENUE, INVERNESS.

The above took place on Wednesday evening last, in the Station Hotel. It having transpired that a deputation was to arrive this week from Dublin, with the testimonial got up by Mr Murdoch's late colleagues in the Excise, a few friends in Inverness resolved to celebrate the occasion with a public dinner, and thus at once give *color* to the presentation, and a "Highland welcome" to the deputation.

The ceremony was graced by Bailies Simpson and Macbean, Town Clerk Davidson, Dr Mackay, Mr Dallas, Town Clerk, Messrs Elliot, Linton, H. Munro, J. Barclay, D. Menzies, A. Mackenzie, Chalmers, and A. Mackenzie, Church Street, W. B. Forsyth of the *Advertiser*, J. Barron of the *Courier*, W. J. Macdonald, Union Street, John Macdonald, Exchange, H. C. Fraser, Chas. Freeman, J. Hoban, K. Charleson, G. Hall, D. A. Campbell, L. Bell, and W. Mackenzie, *Highlander*, &c., who sat down to an excellent dinner, furnished with great taste by Mr Macdonald. The worthy Provost of Inverness—John Mackenzie, Esq., M.D., Eileanach—occupied the chair. On his right sat the guest, Mr Murdoch, and on his left, Mr W. E. Carter, secretary to the Testimonial Committee. At the head of the table stood a silver Salver, inscribed: "Presented to JOHN MURDOCH, Esq. (late Supervisor of Inland Revenue, Inverness), together with a purse of 300 sovereigns, by his many official friends on his retirement from the Service, as a token of their regard and esteem, and to mark their grateful sense of his increasing exertions to ameliorate their position, and his fearless and able advocacy of Revenue Reform.—1873." There was also a most beautifully illuminated address, in the first style of the art.

Before proceeding to what he considered the chief business of the evening, the Provost said he would read a telegram which he had just received from London. "The editor of the *Civilian* joins in spirit with the Dublin deputation and the citizens of Inverness in their tribute to Mr Murdoch; and on behalf of himself, his staff, and many official friends here, he wishes the editor of the *Highlander* every happiness and blessing he could desire."

After dinner and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the Chairman introduced Mr Carter, who rose and said, Mr Provost and Gentlemen—

I assure you I appear here this evening with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret, of pleasure because I am proud to be invited to participate in a well-deserved compliment to our friend Mr. Murdoch, and at the same time I cannot but regret that some one better qualified than I am should not have been selected to meet you on this occasion. I must, however, crave your indulgence for a few moments, and ask to be allowed to say a word or two before reading the address. I believe I may say all with truth, that when it was first mooted that Mr Murdoch was about to retire from the service, a thrill of regret ran through the department, and when his retirement became an accomplished fact, the feeling was intensified, and found vent in a general desire to show in some tangible manner our appreciation of his great services; and while the many were hesitating and deliberating what should be done, two spirited officers in Dublin, all honour to them, and I think in justice should give their names, Messrs. O'Hea and Kerin, took upon themselves to summon a meeting—a committee was formed—an appeal was made to the service, and the response lies before us, and I venture to say that no similar appeal was ever made to the department that was so generally responded to. (Loud cheers.) And why?—well, Sir, in the first place, I believe it is pretty generally thought that the right give their names, Messrs. O'Hea and Kerin, took upon themselves to summon a meeting—a committee was formed—an appeal was made to the service, and the response lies before us, and I venture to say that no similar appeal was ever made to the department that was so generally responded to. (Loud cheers.) And why?—well, Sir, in the first place, I believe it is pretty generally thought that the right give their names, Messrs. O'Hea and Kerin, took upon themselves to summon a meeting—a committee was formed—an appeal was made to the service, and the response lies before us, and I venture to say that no similar appeal was ever made to the department that was so generally responded to. (Loud cheers.)

shall forecast what the force of his example may lead to? In these days of enlightenment, of education, and competitive examinations, who shall say how many aspirants for fame may not emulate his example? His name has become a household word amongst us, and we follow him in his retirement with feelings of grateful recollection. (Loud applause.) I will now read the address which the Committee have given me to present:—

DEAR SIR,—Your friends and well-wishers in the Inland Revenue Department have heard with regret of your retirement from the public service, and they cannot allow the occasion to pass without marking their sense of the grateful remembrance in which you are held by them.

We are happy in being able to announce to you that the sentiments of your friends have found prompt and practical expression in a manner which it is hoped will be gratifying to you, and that it has been resolved to present you with a Testimonial.

It is not necessary to recapitulate your many services to the Department, nor to dilate upon your persistent devotion to the great cause of Revenue Reform—your labours are on record, and you may proudly point to them; but it is for your friends to show their appreciation of those labours.

We ask, then, your acceptance of the accompanying Salver and Purse of Three Hundred Sovereigns as a token, however inadequate, of the good wishes of the Service in your regard; but we do not say "farewell"—for we feel that you will still continue to take an interest in all that concerns the well-being and advancement of the Department.

In conclusion, we desire to say most heartily to you and yours, May your future be happy and prosperous, and whatever path in life you may be destined yet to tread may it lead you to certain and signal success.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
M. S. RAINSFORD, Chairman,
THOS. CONROY, Treasurer,
W. E. CARTER, Secretary.

Dublin, April, 1873.

I have now much pleasure, Mr Provost, in asking you to oblige us by presenting this testimonial to our friend Mr Murdoch, in the name of the subscribers, all of whom are members of the Service he adorned so long. It is tendered with our heartiest wishes for his welfare, and with the earnest hope that he will long be spared a blessing and a credit to himself, to his family, to his friends and his neighbours, with whom he has cast his lot in this good old town of Inverness. (Applause.)

Mr Carter then handed the address, the salver, and a cheque for £300 to the Chairman, who asked Mr Murdoch to accept the same in the name of his late friends in the Excise, and with the hearty good wishes of many friends of whom he could best outside the department; at same time wishing him every success in the new sphere upon which he was just entering, as editor of the *Highlander* newspaper. The following is Mr Murdoch's reply to the address; for his speech, we have not room.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—For the very handsome Testimonial which I have just received by the hand of your efficient representative, Mr W. E. Carter, I can only say to you, and to those for whom you act, that I thank you most sincerely.

You are kind enough to give me credit for sentiments and exertions in which you have fully participated; for what did I ever attempt in which I was not generously encouraged and ably supported by you; and whatever has been accomplished is traceable to your own generosity and bravery.

Your noble gift of your possessions double value in my eyes. It is generously bestowed out of penury in recognition of good intentions, only partially realised. Something, however, worthy of our best efforts has been realised. Permit me to say for myself that, in whatever I attempted for the good of the department, I always acted so as that, whatever might be the fate of any measure of reform or redress aimed at, we were sure, from the efforts put forth, to be gainers in character and credit. And to whatsoever the credit is due, there can be no doubt of the fact, that there is not a department under the crown which has risen so rapidly in character and in the estimation of the public as the Excise has done during the last twenty years. Let us hope that this force of character will obtain for us, on no distant day, that pecuniary reward which other departments have obtained.

You do not wish to say "farewell." I assure you neither do I. And more than that, I shall ever feel it a pleasure and a duty to avail myself of every opportunity which offers—and I hope to have more such than I ever had before—to promote Revenue Reform, and the amelioration of the condition of the Revenue Officers.

Again, I thank you most sincerely; and in doing so, permit me to lay special emphasis on what I feel to be due to my Irish friends who have so warmly cherished the kindly feelings which sprang up when, many years ago, we worked together for the common good, and who have shown themselves on this, as on many other occasions, to be as brave as they are generous.

With much respect and esteem, I am, Sir, your friend, and I trust you are such honorable members every blessing both now and hereafter. J. MURDOCH.

He stated that a great deal of what was ascribed to him was really due to the exertions of his late colleagues themselves; a body of men, he maintained, who stood second to no other body of men, in point of character and intelligence, notwithstanding the galling restrictions under which they laboured. He thanked the Chairman for presiding, Mr Carter, who had taken such trouble, the Committee which had sent him, and the whole service, for the kindly feelings cherished towards him, for the confidence they had always reposed in him, and for the noble exercise of their liberality, which then stood on the table.

The kind citizens of Inverness who had come there that evening to enhance the compliment paid by his late colleagues, he felt most grateful. He was very sorry that his unmitigating engagements, for some time, had precluded the possibility of his even thinking, far less putting together, a suitable acknowledgement of the kindness of which he was the recipient.

accept my most heartfelt thanks; on my return, I shall not fail to convey to them, the sentiments you have been pleased to express, and the more than handsome manner those sentiments have been responded to; but what has been done, is the cheerful outcome of generous hearts; had we been able to do all we could have wished, I know not where we should have stopped; but I think in all probability you would have been deprived of the services of a young *Highlander*, that first saw the light in this town of yours last week, and which I am sure will fervently hope may in time grow strong and vigorous. I am informed the interesting young infant and its parent are getting on wonderfully well, I am sure its heart is sound, and there will be no difficulty in keeping up the circulation. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I again thank you for your kindness.

The "Health of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Inverness," was proposed by Mr Hoban, and acknowledged by Bailie Macbean. Mr Menzies gave the "Commercial interests of the North," and Bailie Simpson replied. "The Press," by Mr Dallas; responded to by Mr W. B. Forsyth, who gave a cordial welcome to the *Highlander*, and the right hand of fellowship to Mr Murdoch. Mr John Macdonald proposed "Success to the *Highlander*," which was acknowledged by Mr Murdoch. The Provost then gave a short account of the absurd and costly system of collecting revenue, to the reform of which Mr Murdoch had devoted so much of his energies.

A number of toasts and songs followed, for which we cannot possibly make room.

The whole affair came off in a most spirited and cordial manner.

The vigilance of the Police Commissioners, and of their active Superintendent, seems to be carried to an unnecessary degree, in the estimation of some of our citizens. There is a petition in course of signature, in which exception is taken to the shortness of the time allowed for goods to lie out in the street opposite the shop doors, and to the carrying out of the law against window shades being lower than eight feet from the ground.

The vigilance of the police and police commissioners, showed itself afresh in the proceedings taken in the Police Court on Wednesday, against James Strachan, butcher, New Market, William Hullah and Donald Macintosh, all of Inverness, for exposing unsound beef for sale. The case was proved against Strachan, who was fined 10s; not proven in the case of Hullah; and withdrawn in the case of Macintosh.—John McLeod pled guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly, and was fined half-a-crown.—The justices on the bench were, Bailies Mackintosh, Bailie, with Simpson presiding.

A SHORE DUES case is before the Sheriff Court these days, involving the question whether it is the buyer or the seller of goods who is liable to pay. The question has arisen between Mr Theodore Chisholm, the leasee of the dues, and Mr Tymon. The latter had bought a quantity of fish, and on introducing it within our burgh limits, declined to pay the dues. The fish was seized, and detained until it became unfit for use. So Mr Tymon appeals for redress to the Sheriff, who has not yet given a decision.

FORT-GEORGE.—Major-General Sir George Douglas, K.C.B., commander of the forces in Scotland, made an inspection of the troops here on Monday.

THE SCOTTISH TWENTY CLUB.—The third competition for this season in connection with the above club took place at Aberdeen on the 21st inst., under the superintendence of Sergeant Ferguson, Inverness. Shooting commenced at 10.30 A.M. The light was very changeable, with very troublesome shifty wind from the rear, and strong mirage. Distances were 200, 500, and 600 yards—seven shots at each. We subjoin the result, along with that of the two former competitions:—

	Apr. 9. 20.	My. 21.	Tl.
L. Corp. W. Charles, 1 A.R.V.	57	61	55
Private Hugh Grant, 1 A.R.V.	57	53	56
Sergt. J. T. Thomson, 1 A.R.V.	53	48	35
Ensign A. Niven, 23 A.R.V.	53	58	31
Private A. James, 10 A.R.V.	52	50	59
Sergt. Geo. Dawson, 10 A.R.V.	51	56	50
Cl. Sgt. A. F. Mortimer, 1 A.R.V.	50	48	58
Ensign Geo. Cruden, 1 A.R.V.	51	53	49
Q.-M. A. Craighead, 3 A.R.V.	55	46	31

We understand the club gives three crosses—one gold, one silver, and one bronze—to the highest scorers in each of the districts. The final competition takes place here on the 20th, at 10.50 A.M. and 3 P.M.

PRESENTATION.—Rothesay was all life and anxiety for a few days back, doing honour to an Invernessian, Dr. D. Fraser, Esq., F.E.I.S., who had been for some time Mathematical and English master in the Rothesay Academy, and who is now going to South Africa. He received several tangible proofs of the good wishes of the inhabitants of Rothesay before his departure, and the editor of the *Butean* devoted a good part of his leading columns to a eulogy on his exemplary character.

District News.

LOCHABER.

Seldom has a finer Spring than the past been experienced here. The months of February and March, and the early part of April, were dry and pleasant, and the seed was got into the ground in a condition never surpassed. The acreage under crop is comparatively small, but frequent rains often make it difficult to get through with either spring or harvest work. The latter part of April and the beginning of May have been cold and showery. Rain, which was much required, has fallen in considerable quantity, but cold east winds have invariably dried up the moisture, and grass has not made the progress it promised in the early part of the season. The lambing season, however, has not been unfavourable. Ewes were strong; there has not to this time been any great deficiency of grass, and the weather, though generally cold, has not been, as often it is, rough and boisterous.

The tourist season is about commencing, and it frequently happens that about the end of May the weather here becomes more unsettled than it is earlier in the season. It might be to the advantage of tourists to begin their visits earlier in summer, and not continue them so late in autumn, but there are many obstacles to a change. Those who have been in the habit of frequenting this locality for some years will observe several changes in our hotels. Mr Mackenzie, who for many years been landlord of the Lochiel Arms, at Banavie, has retired from business, carrying with him the best wishes of all his acquaintances, and is succeeded by Mr Macgregor, who is trusted that the well-earned reputation of the hotel shall be maintained and extended. The accommodation is to be greatly increased, but this cannot be done till the present season is over. A new landlord is in possession of the Caledonian Hotel at Fort-William, and the Chevalier Hotel, lately opened there by Mr Cameron, of North Ballachulish, adds considerably to the accommodation provided for summer visitors. As to other matters there is but little change. The magnificent swift steamers of the Messrs Hutchison will soon commence to ply as usual, but the fares are slightly raised. The route remains the same as of old through our fine lochs and among our rugged hills along the great glen of Albyn. For all that is grand and glorious in our scenery, geologists now tell us we are mainly indebted to the glacial period which prevailed, whether fifteen thousand or fifteen million years ago, it is still impossible to determine. But, while the question is being investigated, tourists might derive a little pleasure from a visit to Glen Roy and Loch Treig, both easily accessible from a good inn at Roy Bridge, thirteen miles from Fort-William, on the Kingussie road. All would enjoy the scenery, and those of them who have a turn for geology, might exercise their ingenuity in endeavouring to account for the "Parallel Roads" of Glen Roy, and the terraces of Loch Treig, the origin which forms as knotty a geological problem as is often to be met with, and which geologists have not yet been able, satisfactorily, to solve.

Other great questions of the day are faintly echoed here as well. The education question is considered by many as already solved, and in both the large parishes, which are included in this district, School Boards are busy re-arranging schools. It would be a great mistake to suppose that there has existed any deficiency in the number of schools in said parishes. The number in future will be smaller, much to the benefit of education, if not to the profit of rate-payers. The Kilmalie School Board has called in the able assistance of a well known Invernessian, Mr Ross, to choose sites and supply designs for the schools under their management, and altogether show a commendable activity in discharging their duties.

The game question excites but little interest. The area under cultivation being but small, the damage done by game is scarcely observable. Ground game is not so plentiful as in many parts, and the moors are not overstocked with grouse, so that altogether little or no dissatisfaction prevails. A much more important question, in the eyes of many, is the right to kill salmon in our tidal lochs. Few of our fishermen can see that there is anything morally wrong in taking a salmon when they may catch any number of herring or cod, and certainly the law which makes the distinction is, on the face of it, much more unjust than the game law, and has greater need of being altered.

The question of landlord and tenant is yet but little agitated here, but the same is not the case with another, the "Union Question." This is not the place, however, at the close of remarks which are too long already, to enter upon the discussion of such a subject. A volume upon it would have little effect for good.

EASTER ROSS.

DINGWALL.—FOLGERY.—Alexander Macdonald, a clerk in the office of Mr Shaw, Procurator Fiscal here, has been apprehended on a charge of forging his employer's name to six cheques on the Caledonian Bank. He drew altogether a sum of about £30, and his delinquency appears to have extended over six weeks. The case was investigated by Mr Munro, Procurator Fiscal of the Tain district, and Macdonald was committed for trial.

DISPENSING SALE AT DRUMMOND, NOVAR.—On Tuesday a sale of the entire farm stock, implements, household furniture, &c., took place at Drummond. There was a large attendance. Prices were very high, particularly for fat beasts. Work-horses sold at from £22 10s. to £74. Average 261 8s.—ponies sold from £7 to £16—average, £29. Two-year-old stots sold from £20 to £34 10s., and all other things were comparatively high.

TAIN.—The copious moisture and genial, though short-lived warmth, caused crops of all kinds to spring up and to give fair promise of future luxuriance; but already the cold has had a prejudicial effect, causing the brains in some places to look blackish and unhealthy. Warm weather is earnestly hoped for and much required. VOLUNTEERS.—The challenge medal of the local company of Rifle Volunteers was competed for on Saturday last, and, after a keen contest, gained by Angus Munro, with the score of 46—a good one under the circumstances. SCHOOL BOARD.—This board met on Monday last, the proceedings being opened by prayer. The educational census of the parish showed that there were 533 children within the required ages in the parish, but that additional accommodation would only be required to be provided for about 50. A new school must be built for the village of Inver, but it is expected that Tarbat parish will assist in that undertaking. The board have resolved to maintain the use and went with regard to religious education.

WESTER ROSS.

KINTAIL.—In common with so many elsewhere, we, in this out of the way district, were glad to welcome the first number of the *Highlander*. We trust that many of our number will be induced by the stirring appeal of "Sgìtheach" to become regular subscribers. To us the Gaelic department will be peculiarly interesting, particularly when supported by a contributor so favourably known, through the old "Cuirtear" and the new *Gael*, as is the able Celtic scholar who penned the appeal for the "Mountain Scot." The district of Kintail comprises the two extensive, though sparsely peopled, parishes of Kintail and Glenshiel. The land owners are—Mr Matheson of Ardross, Mr Mackenzie of Kintail, and Mr Baillie of Dochfour. Part of the heights of Kintail parish belongs to the Chisholm, but this portion is locally more connected with Strathglass than with Kintail. Mr Matheson is by far the largest landowner, having purchased lands formerly belonging to Lillingston of Lochalsh, Mackenzie of Applecross, and Mackinnon of Letterfean, one of the Corry family. He has executed many improvements, particularly in plantations, which add much to the natural beauty of Lochduich. A great proportion of the land is in large sheep farms, many of the people having emigrated to make way for them. There are also several well-to-do small tenants, who pay from £10 to £30 of rent. Mr Matheson has added greatly to the comfort of these by improving their land, and giving them facilities for erecting dwellings. By far the greater number of the people, however, live in villages, or rather hamlets, on the sea shore, and are dependent on the fishings for a precarious subsistence. These have little or no land, and most of them are dependent for potatoes ground on the liberality of the neighbouring farmers and smaller tenants. When there is good fishing they do pretty well; but this has for many years been so uncertain that few of them keep themselves fully provided with boats and nets to prosecute it successfully. When not fishing, many of them are employed about the sheep farms and shooting lodges. Of late many of the young men have left the district to seek their fortunes elsewhere, where they might, with proper encouragement, have been making fortunes for themselves and others at home. Of deer forests, there is only one in the whole of the district—that of Glenshiel, on the estate of Mr Baillie. All the other shootings, with one exception, are let to the neighbouring sheep farmers, who sub-let them to English sportsmen. This may account for the fact that, from this wide pastoral district, we hear so few complaints about the Game Laws. The School Boards in both our parishes were elected unanimously; and, from the constitution of them, we expect them to work well. Mr Matheson of Ardross having been elected to preside over the Board at Kintail is evidence enough that we are well advanced on the "Women's Rights" question, and that we are ready to give honour to whom honour is due. Mrs Matheson has for many years supported an efficient industrial school in the village of Dornie.

STRATHGROSS.—The weather still continues unsettled. The hills all round show a covering half way down the Strath, and both clover and corn fields, in consequence of cold winds and frosts, are slightly tinged with a shade of heather colour. The probability is that bright sunshine will soon follow, and that all the moisture in the soil will yet be necessary. Peat casting is already begun. We are not in a position to export any. Thousands of acres of peat soil lie waste among our hills for the want of proper roads. In the vicinity of Achnasheen station there is a wide area quite available for operations either in the old way or by means of machinery. If arrangements could be made with proprietors and others concerned, great quantities of fuel might be obtained in places convenient for export, and at little cost. Improvements are going on on Mr Balfour's estate. Farm-houses for the rich, and cottages for the poor, with roads for the benefit of all, are to be completed during the year.

LOCHABER.—Shoals of herrings are beginning to show themselves in the bays around our coast, and several boats are engaged in the fishing, notwithstanding the unsettled state of the weather. Several crans were secured near the island of Rona this week, seven crans being the greatest take as yet; but when the weather becomes more settled, the fishing will be prosecuted with greater ardour. Several crews are fast preparing, and will soon start for the Garloch and Stormoyard fishing.

SUTHERLAND.

LAIRG.—The grass parks of Achany have been let at a considerable advance on last year. At a meeting of the School Board last week, Mr Oliver Ross, writer, Golspie, was appointed clerk and treasurer.

HEBRIDES.

DUNVEGAN.—Although accompanied by a regular gale of wind, the change which took place in the weather here on Tuesday—a constant pour of rain—must be very acceptable to our parched soil, and to the dry tongues of our drooping vegetation.

PORTREE.—The weather still continues bleak and piercing. Vegetation is hardly making any progress, and cattle, sheep, and other animals, are hard pinched for food.

People are everywhere busy cutting their peats, and in most instances, owing to the scarcity of men, the work is done by women and boys. A great cry is raised at present about the "working of the mosses," and the manufacture of the peats, by mixing the moss with coal, &c., &c. Such an article may be very good, but it would not be "peat." The good old way, is to cut plenty of peats in May, dry them in summer, and stack them in August. That's the way the Gaels used from time out of mind to provide their fuel; and it is round this sort of fuel, blazing on their hearth, that they sang their songs and recited their *sgùthachlan*. Let every one take warning by last winter, and provide plenty good black peats for next winter.

The tourist season has already commenced here; never before so early; and never were we so well prepared. All the places of accommodation in the island, and especially those in Portree, have been thoroughly repaired and refitted during spring. An additional wing has been put to the Caledonian Inn, and the Royal Hotel has lately been greatly enlarged. The Temperance Hotel has been taken by Mr Sutherland, saddler, and has been thoroughly overhauled and refitted. In short, Portree looks quite attractive, although the Cuchullin hills are capped with snow. There is now a steamer plying daily between Portree and Stromo Ferry, and two steamers weekly to and from Glasgow, so the island is easy of access. We are sorry to hear that the obliging and popular landlord of the inn at Sgìthchan is leaving. During his time, the inn has been named as one of the most comfortable in Skye.

ISLAN.—Although our people have decreased to such an alarming degree, farming seems to have made considerable strides during the last ten years. Cattle and sheep of improved breeds are increasing. Miles of fences have been erected. Farm houses and steadings of quite a superior description have sprung up on every side. And so much have the skill and energy of our farmers and their servants improved, that last autumn, which was so wet, all the corn was secured with very little damage, and at an earlier period than in some parts of the North of England.

On the estate of Glenshiel, great improvements are in progress, the old thatched huts at Ballygrant have been pulled down, and the people removed into neat new cottages, which Mr Finlay has built, and which he lets at nominal rents. A fine plantation now flourishes where the huts stood. So, that altogether, *Baile-ghrann* is transformed into a *Baile-bàthach*. The "Glen" from Knochealach to the road crossing from Bridgend to Port-Ellen is metamorphosed. Fine farm houses and plantations meet the eye in every direction. The lead mines, after a long interval, have begun to be worked with considerable vigour, under the able superintendence of Mr Vireo, a Cornish gentleman. So that, on the whole, we are doing something here, both on the earth and under it. If we have a melancholy side, there is also a bright one.

TOBERMORY.—VOLUNTEERS.—The 9th Argyll Artillery Volunteers were last week visited by Captain and Adjutant Shepherd. The men, under the command of Lieutenant Spier, were exercised for nearly two hours in carbine and company drill. On Saturday, the corps assembled at their range to compete for the Ladies' Challenge Medal, when eighteen competitors entered the lists. The conditions were seven rounds at 400 yds. After some excellent practice, Gunner Archibald Maclean was declared the winner with a score of 25 points. Prizes 17s.—The mansion-house and shootings of Aros have been let for the season to Alexander Allan, Esq., of Glasgow and Liverpool. It is understood, that should the estate please this gentleman, he is likely to become the proprietor. Erray villa, the property of H. Nisbet, Esq., has been let to Mrs Reid of Gordonbush. Several other houses are being taken for summer residences, and the number of visitors promises to be larger this season than usual.

APPOINTMENTS.—Mr Mackenzie, from the Sheriff-Clerk's Office here, has, we understand, been appointed to succeed Mr Munro as Sheriff-Clerk-Depute at Tobermory. Mr Blyth, principal light-keeper at Ru-nan-gall, has been appointed to a similar situation at the Isle of Man light-house. SCHOOL BOARD.—The second meeting of the School Board for the parish of Kilmivan and Kilmore was held at Dunvegan last Monday week. The expenses—£18 14s 2d—connected with the election of the Board were submitted by the returning-officer, and ordered to be paid. The census report of the parish was given in, showing the number of children in each of the districts of the parish as follows:—

	Between 3 & 5 years.	Between 5 & 13 years.	Over 13 years.	Total.
Tobermory,	48	296	71	375
Tobernis, &c.,	8	62	31	101
Dunvegan,	19	120	31	170

The Bible and Shorter Catechism are to be taught in all the schools, and the schools are to be opened and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be held at Tobermory.—The weather is anything but satisfactory, and our farmers are in a state of great anxiety.

STROMNOY.—The successful commencement of the fishing has already sent to the west coast a large fleet of boats to prosecute the herring fishing, and constant arrivals are daily coming. By the end of this week it is expected that fully 400 boats will be prosecuting the fishing from here and Holm, the next station to it. The fishermen seem pretty confident that herring is plentiful on the coast, and that a good fishing will follow. The high prices—as high as £5 a cran—received at first by crews has rapidly declined to about 25s, which will scarcely pay; and crews are becoming alarmed that so much May fish, which is of course more immature than that of June, may influence the markets during the whole of the season. Prices here for fresh fish have been ranging from 5s to 10s per cran. Engaged boats are receiving 12s a cran and bounties. The following is a note of the fishing since last report:—

May 2	Boats out	Highest take.	Average.
" 3	14	7	2
" 4	15	3	1
" 6	3	11	1
" 7	3	11	1
" 8	126	22	3
" 9	118	7	3
" 10	114	11	2
" 13	155	42	3
" 14	155	26	4
" 15	105	9	14
" 16	65	8	2
" 17	150	28	3

No boats out—Night stormy.

Night stormy—Many boats returned.

The total catch is about 2500 crans, all of which has been exported, as soon as cured, to the continent by steamers.—A very serious and alarming fire took place last Wednesday morning in the extensive premises of Mr Andrew Gibson, fish curer, in James Street, used as a steam saw-mill and barrel manufactory, which resulted in the total destruction of these premises, together with the loss of a large number of barrels and other effects. The fire was observed first by Mr Norman Mackenzie, foreman cooper, while he was proceeding past the premises to his work. He immediately alarmed the owners and others, and in a short time a large number of townspeople were on the ground, and they at once set energetically to save what they could of the effects; but they had only removed a few barrels of the five or six hundred stored in the manufactory, some wood, and the leather bands round the wheels, when they had to leave the premises to their fate, which were soon wrapped in flames and totally destroyed. Happily, however, Mr Gibson had the presence of mind to open the safety valve of the steam boiler, and he was thus the means of preventing the explosion of the boiler, and damage to the surrounding properties, and perhaps to lives. Efforts were thereafter directed to prevent the fire extending to two ranges of sheds on both sides of the saw-mill, and which were stowed with barrels. Whilst one party of the constantly-increasing helpers attended to pouring water on the premises and cutting away the communications, the others applied themselves to removing the barrels and other effects stored. Men, women, and boys all worked with a will, and good results followed. The fire was kept from extending, and about 1000 barrels were saved. It was very trying upon those next the fire; the smoke proceeding from the burning barrels, and chips of wood, &c., was so suffocating, and the heat was so intense, that few could stand it. It was noticed that, while the fire was going on and the people working, several Wick men came on the ground, and coolly looked on, apparently admiring it, with their hands deep down in their trouser pockets, and pipes stuck in their mouths. The loss to Mr Gibson is about £900. Mr K. Smith lost 500 barrels which were stored in the premises, and other parties lost other effects. None of the loss is covered by insurance. Great sympathy is generally expressed for Mr Gibson, who is a most active, industrious, and energetic man, and his saw-mill was of great benefit to the place.

SCHOOL BOARDS.—The various School Boards throughout the island are at present busily engaged taking the census of the children, between the ages of 5 and 13 years. It is expected that a large number of schools will be required in the Lewes, especially in the landward part of the island, but as Government will give £300 for every school built, and £100 for every dwelling-house, the charge will not be so great upon the ratepayers. To entitle the School Boards to these grants, they must levy assessments, at the rate of 9d per pound rental by 31st December. We notice that permission is granted to delay levying this assessment to 31st December 1874, but as School Boards could not in that case apply for the grants until 1875, surely it would be preferable to assess this year at once, and get the grants, and be able to commence operations next summer.

STRATHSPY.

TULLOCH.—We have received an account of this region which is full of interest, and teeming with valuable details; but we are sorry our limits preclude its being inserted entire. We cannot but think that the School Board, or the Parochial Board, or some other local authority should step in and try to give an impetus to agricultural, horticultural, and architectural improvement. There have been many rich blessings bestowed by nature on the district, but they seem to be sadly neglected. Scarcely any of the arable land has been regularly trenched or drained, and so there is no depth for valuable crops to strike root in. Then the

water from the clouds runs down the slopes as soon as it falls; and after a very short spell of dry weather, the land suffers as severely from drought, as if no supply of moisture had been granted by heaven. Deep cultivation is as necessary against drought as against wet.

Then the farm steadings—many of them are very defective. There are no appliances for saving or utilising liquid manure, and the solid farm yard manure is exposed to the elements, and much of its substance washed away by the rain.

Fences are wanting, and much of the time and labour which ought to be available for other purposes is frittered away in unsatisfactory sorties after wayward cattle, and in keeping cows and calves apart. Every small farmer employs one or more herds during half the year, and still he is often in a state of uneasiness and chronic apprehension that his cattle are "in the corn." And frequently they are in the corn, and then what chasing, and turmoil, and disorder, and interruption to regular labour. The cattle are routed by dogs and pelted with stones, and belaboured with cudgels; and all because there are no fences. But why are there no fences, in a district where the requisite materials, stone and timber, abound?

Farm houses are without proper sanitary requisites, and even decency cannot always be commanded.

Following up the account, we come upon the statement that the evils have been aggravated by the deer foresting and game preserving powers "annexing" much of the hill pasture, formerly in possession of the peasant farmers—they paying the penalty of higher aggregate rents for the remainder than they did previously for the whole. In this instance, the deer forests, not only encroached thus upon the farms, but literally abolished a dozen of them, and dispersed the occupiers.

All these are matters on which the light of public opinion is required. Before long, the country will inquire what the landlords in such cases do as a return for the rents they draw, and what service the factors, who ought to be educated and competent men, render for their salaries and perquisites.

Tulloch is but an example of what can be proved in a great many other quarters, and what with game law injuries, dear mutton, scarce beef, and local taxation, we imagine that the gentlemen who neglect to make the most of the land over which they claim a profitable stewardship, will very shortly have to render an account.

KIRKMICHAEL.—THE SCHOOL BOARD DIFFICULTY SOLVED.—The School Board of the parish of Kirk-michael, in Banffshire, settled the prayer difficulty rather adroitly. It is a great Catholic district. On the Board are two Established Church ministers, the Free Church minister, the parish priest, and the factor. Prayer was proposed. The priest objected. The ministers agreed to take it in turn, and to listen to the priest if the priest would listen to them. The priest, mollified, agreed to be listener, but not to pray. Happy family! Here is a solution not only of the prayer difficulty, but approximately of the whole religious puzzle.

PAPERS ON PEAT.

NO. I.

A LARGE portion of the surface of North-western Europe is covered with a peculiar substance of vegetable origin, termed peat, or turf. Bog-land or peat-moss, as the ground covered by peat is termed, occupies a large portion of the area of Denmark; and of various parts of Holland; and of important districts of France and Germany. Of the 29 millions of acres which constitute the area of Ireland, 2,500,000 acres are bogs of various kinds. Bogs are numerous in Scotland and in the Highlands peat constitutes the chief fuel used by the peasantry.

The origin of peat is of great geological and chemical interest. Its chemical composition and its structure clearly show that it has been formed chiefly by the decomposition of various species of sphagnum, or bog moss; it however, is also, in part formed of the altered remains of heaths, and of reeds, mosses, and other aquatic plants. It has been asserted that the existing bogs have been chiefly formed from the decay of forests, but this is not at all probable. No doubt the destruction of a forest in Ross-shire by a violent storm in the 17th century, is known to have resulted in the formation of a bog; but a microscopic examination of peat would in nineteen cases out of twenty show that it was produced from the lower forms of vegetation, and not from oaks, firs, and similar forest trees.

The formation of peat is going on at this moment in many parts of these countries. In shallow pools and marshy situations, mosses only partially decay, being converted into a vegetable mould, which formed a soil upon which other mosses grow. The roots of the mosses often decay, and assume a peaty form, whilst new shoots spring from the upper part of the stems.

Bogs sometimes grow very rapidly; an inch in depth per annum, being by no means an uncommon rate.

In composition peat resembles wood more closely than it does coal. Wood is composed of the four chemical elements, or simple bodies, termed oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon, besides a little earthy and saline matter. The value of wood, as a source of artificial heat and light, depends upon its proportions of hydrogen and carbon. The presence of oxygen and nitrogen detracts from the heating and light giving power of the wood. When this fuel is consumed, a portion of its carbon and hydrogen enters into combination with the oxygen, and forms water

and carbonic acid, evolving thereby no heat, but on the contrary, carrying heat away from the fuel in a latent or insensible condition. During the slow decay of wood (or the ligneous tissue, or the substance of mosses, &c.), carbonic acid and water are evolved, and the residue becomes richer in carbon and hydrogen, the longer the decay goes on; because these elements taken together, are greatly in excess of the quantities necessary to convert the whole of the oxygen into water and carbonic acid.

Peat is the first stage in the conversion of vegetable matter into coal; and when dry its heating power is much greater than that of wood. By the further evolution of carbonic acid and water from peat, a substance termed lignite, or brown coal is formed. This fuel is not found abundantly, but at an earlier period of the world, it probably existed in enormous quantities. By a further loss of oxygen, lignite passes into the condition of a true coal. The most recent kinds of which (bituminous or flaming coal) include, however, a considerable amount of oxygen. The final product of this peculiar kind of decay of vegetable matter is anthracite, which is little more than impure carbon or charcoal. The following diagram shows how the carbon gradually increases during the conversion of wood into anthracite.

COMPOSITION OF FUELS (drawn at 212° Fah.) 100 parts contain:—

	Carbon.	Hydrogen.	Oxygen and Nitrogen.	Ash and Sulphur.
Wood	50.10	6.07	43.00	0.83
Peat	52.11	6.24	23.24	9.73
Lignite	60.31	5.62	23.42	4.63
Bituminous coal	78.57	5.29	13.72	2.42
Anthracite	91.39	2.28	8.81	2.52

These figures must be regarded as absolutely representing the composition of peat and coal, for the amount of ash and of oxygen and nitrogen varies considerably in these fuels.

The nitrogen originally present in the vegetable matter, is to a great extent, sometimes almost wholly, eliminated in the form of ammonia—a gaseous compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. A portion of the carbon also passes off in combination with hydrogen, producing thereby the explosive gas, termed carbureted hydrogen, or fire damp, the cause of so many accidents in the coal mines.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the various kinds of fuel stand in the following order relative to their heat giving powers; the best being placed first:—Anthracite, bituminous coal, lignite, peat, wood. As anthracite burns with difficulty, and emits no flame, or a very small one, its use is chiefly confined to the production of steam, or to the metal house. There are many inconveniences attending the use of wood, for example, the sparks that fly forth from the grate in which it is being burned, to the great damage of carpets and other articles. Bituminous coal is undoubtedly the most satisfactory fuel for domestic purposes; and next in merit to this, we should be disposed to regard good and well dried peat.

Peat is a light substance, its specific gravity being sometimes less than one-half that of coal. When first cut, it often contains 80 per cent. of moisture; but when air-dried, and in a marketable condition, it usually includes from 22 to 35 per cent. of water. It is difficult to desiccate it thoroughly; and as even store dried peat generally retains from 6 to 10 per cent. of moisture.

The amount of ash or mineral matter in peat varies from 2 to 30 per cent. of ash; but in ordinary good peat, the ash exists generally to the extent of from 4 to 9 per cent. The heat-producing power of peat is, of course, diminished in proportion to the amount of earthy or incombustible matter which is present in the article. Should it be determined to establish works for the production of "condensed" peat, it would be desirable to select a variety of fuel from ash. A simple experiment may be performed by the aid of an apothecary's scales and weights, a spirit lamp, and a little earthen crucible—can determine this point. Burn perfectly 100 grains, or parts of the peat, collect the ashes, and weigh them; they should not exceed ten grains or parts.

Now that coal is sold at from 30 to 45 shillings per ton, with but little prospect of any immediate important reduction in its price, it will certainly be a disadvantage to the intelligence, skill, and enterprise of the people of these countries, if they allow the enormous fuel resources of our bogs to remain as they have remained for centuries, imperfectly or undeveloped. No doubt millions of the inhabitants of the British Islands, have for hundred of years, been altogether dependent upon peat as a source of artificial heat; but that fuel has not hitherto produced a moiety of the heat which it is capable of yielding, if subjected to proper treatment. British capitalists are always found ready to invest their money in the working of mines in remote countries, in building railways in foreign lands, in supplying oriental cities with pipe-water and illuminating gas, yet here we have at home, more than four millions of acres covered with a layer of crude fuel, from a 10 to 15 feet deep, wanting but the application of moderate capital, and a great degree of skill, to convert it into great sources of riches to the capitalist, and of employment and comfort to the people.

Mr "Chawles Thawpsom" recently ran his head against a young lady during a collision. "Ah, excuse me, dear," he cried; "did it hurt, ah?" "No, sir," she replied; "it is too soft to hurt anything?"

"SWEET ARE THE USES OF ADVERTISEMENTS."—"Latefy, in Auburn, loveliest village of the plain, a man lost a package of money. He was a sensible man, and at once put an advertisement in the paper. In the morning, he found the money in his boot.

An unimaginative individual, on visiting the Falls of Niagara, was greatly perplexed at the astonishment expressed by his companions, and on one of them exclaiming to him, "Is it not a most wonderful fall?" replied, "Wonderful! no; I see nothing wonderful in it. Why, what's to hinder the water from falling?"

A gentleman, in search of a man to do some work, met on his way a lady, not as young as she once was, and asked her, "Can you tell me where I can find a man?" "No, I cannot," she replied, "for I have been looking these twenty years for one myself."

LATEST NEWS.

REUTER'S AND PRESS ASSOCIATION TELEGRAMS.

QUEENSTOWN, Wednesday.

The White Star steamer, Oceanic, from New York, arrived here at 11 p.m. to-day.

BARCELONA, Wednesday.

The details respecting the affair at Sanabaja are still contradictorily stated. The Carlists shot 20 prisoners. The Republican militia has demanded that the Carlists prisoners shall be shot, and the civil and military governors have been requested to allow well-known Carlists to be arrested as hostages.

SOUTHAMPTON, Thursday.

P. and O. steamer, Maliva, has arrived with £350,465 in specie. North German Lloyd's steamer, Strasburgh, from New Orleans, Havanna, arrived.

WASHINGTON, Thursday.

The American troops have again overtaken and beaten the Moskos, killing five of them and capturing their women and children. The remainder of the band are flying to join the Pethiver Indians.

PARIS, Thursday.

To-day being Ascension Day, the Bourse has been closed.

OTTAWA, T. to-day.

The Dominion Parliament has agreed to the union with Prince Edward's Island.

MOSCOW, Wednesday.

The Shah has left for St Petersburg.

ST PETERSBURG, Wednesday.

The report that Russian officers had been killed by the Kirghese is contradicted. The Shah of Persia arrived here to-day, and was most cordially received by the Czar.

GENEVA, Thursday.

The police have expelled M. Chaussevert for calling himself a Communist refugee.

GENOA, Thursday.

Yesterday a demonstration took place against the society of St Francis de Paul.

VIENNA, Thursday.

A ball was given last night at the Grand Hotel in honour of the Prince of Wales.

TICHBORNE CASE—THURSDAY.

Mr Gibbs produced a memorandum of questions put to defendant in Sydney, founded on Lady Tichborne's letters. "Mother's statement as to college, denied. What regiment? 66th Light Dragoons, blues, sword and carbine; position, private. Born in Dorset." Mother went to France immediately afterwards. Mr Banille, of Government House, who knew the Tichborne family, but not Roger, put some questions to him and appeared satisfied he was Roger Tichborne; otherwise no one would have advanced him money. Defendant did not at first intend to take his wife to England, but finding that his son resembled him, he decided to do so. Witness examined the pocket book already mentioned. The words "Mary Ann Loader, Thomas Castro, Melipilla," are certainly in defendant's hand writing. The celebrated lines about men with plenty of money and no brains, are apparently so. In cross examination, witness said he was not aware £1000 had been given for the book. Court adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.

A DEPUTATION waited on Mr Stansfield on Thursday, to remonstrate against the proposal to rate Sunday schools.

The Lancet states that the Pope's illness is more serious than officially announced. Cerebro spinal exhaustion is manifest and proxioms of coughing due to bronchitis suffice to bring on congestion.

The Royal Committee resumed on Thursday. Mr Halliday expressed his belief that the miners would freely submit to the result of arbitration. The men disliked the double shift because it interfered with their social comfort.

At the National Miner's conference at Glasgow on Thursday, a letter was read from Mr Briggs, one of the owners of the Cleveland mines, offering to meet the miners or negotiate, and offering further to allow his miners to participate in any extra profits. A committee was appointed to try to bring about a settlement.

MUTUAL ELIGIBILITY. At a meeting held in Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, on Wednesday evening, by the supporters of the Union movement in the Free Church, it was resolved that Union negotiations now cease, that the Union Committee be dissolved, and that the mutual eligibility scheme be proceeded with. Dr Candlish to make a motion to that effect in the General Assembly.

An inquiry held to-day at Five Acres, in Dean Forest, into the death of a lad who fell down a coal pit, resulted in a verdict of manslaughter against Mr Benjamin Davis, the proprietor.

LATEST SPORTING.

SALISBURY, Thursday.

STONKESBEG PLATE.—The Tront, 1; St Victorine, 2; May Queen, 3. 6 ran.

WILTSHIRE STAKES.—Helmet beat Naughty Boy.

SALISBURY STAKES.—Becket Sharp, 1; Dulcimer, 2; Blue Ribbon, 3. 6 ran. Betting on the course, the Derby, 100 to 3 on Paladin offered.

STEWARDS' PLATE.—Mohawk, 1; Silvia Colt, 2; Antiope, 3. 7 ran. Arrived.—Rattle, Engineer, Bastard, Missfire, Touch-me-not Colt.

CITY BOWL.—Niobe Cort, 1; St Clair, 2; Engineer, 3. 3 ran.

QUEEN'S PLATE.—Mortington, 1; Altessa, 2. 4 ran. Betting on the Course.—The Derby—9 to 4 agt. Gang Forward, offered 7 to 2 agt. Hochstapler, offered and taken; 100 to 8 agt. Chandos, taken; 100 to 3 agt. Paladin, offered.

CITY BETTING.—French Derby—5 to 2 against Playebot, Franc Tireur, Birarde, Apillon—taken. Derby—9 to 4 agt. Gang Forward; 7 to 2 agt. Kaiser; 4 to 1 agt. Hochstapler, freely; 100 to 8 agt. Montargis; 100 to 7 agt. Sullivan—taken.

COMMERCIAL.

Bank rate unaltered, very quiet demand for money at 5 1/2 to 6 per cent. 8-seventy thousand sovs. taken to Bank. Markets firm. Consols rather better. Foreign steady. French scrip 3/4 prem. Erie's firmer. Large business in Railways at improved prices. Best Canadian firmer. Trunks lower. Telegraphs rather better. Hudson's Bay 17 1/2 to 18.

Thursday's Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In reply to Mr Lowther, Lord ENFIELD stated that Colonel Stanton had not resigned his post as H.M. Consul and Consul-General in Egypt. He was only going on leave of absence, and, in the interim, his place would be filled by Captain Vivian.

In answer to Mr J. Hamilton, his Lordship also said he had been informed that the Greek Government intended to withdraw all legations to foreign countries, with the exception of that at Constantinople; but no intimation had yet been received as to the withdrawal of the English legation.

In reply to Mr Anderson, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he proposed, immediately after Whitsuntide, to bring in a bill dealing with the Bank Act.

Mr GLADSTONE, in answer to Sir John Jay, said it was intended to take the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill on Monday, June 9.

On the motion for the second reading of the Rating (Liability and Value) Bill.

Mr CAWLEY moved that it be read a second time that day six months. He complained that the provisions were so carelessly drawn that the Bill, instead of laying down the basis of future legislation, would lead to endless difficulty and litigation.

Mr CORRANCE seconded the amendment.

After some remarks from Mr P. WYNPHAM, who objected of the rating of mines, and Mr REEL, who objected to the rating of schools, &c., Mr WARD HUNT complained that the Government was only trifling with the House. These bills were not intended to pass, but only to make a show, and stop the way for others dealing with the subject.

Mr STANSFIELD warmly protested against the charges of the right honourable gentleman. The Government had never professed to deal with the whole question, having declared that the question of local administration and local government must be first settled before they could hope to deal with the question of the classes of property to be made liable to local taxation, or that of aid from imperial resources. He said that the Bill would prevent instead of increase litigation.

Left sitting.

Thursday's Markets.

GLASGOW CATTLE.

Cowen in market, 1084. Top, 65s to 90s; secondary, 50s to 92s all shown, and sold shortly on account of considerably advanced prices. Sheep and lambs 2415. Top, whitetailed, 12d to 12 1/2d; top, clipped, 10d to 10 1/2d; top, blackfaced, 1s to 15d. Supplies large and still trade.

MANCHESTER CORN.

Our market this morning was thinly attended, and the tone was quiet. English wheat at lower prices. The trade held in wheat and barley slow, buyers taking only sufficient to supply their immediate wants. All spring corn rather dearer. Good feedings puts in brisk demand, and quite 15 higher.

BIRMINGHAM CORN.

Good show of samples of English wheat on offer, and sold firm for all descriptions at last week's prices. The trade held in wheat and barley slow, buyers taking only sufficient to supply their immediate wants. All spring corn rather dearer. Good feedings puts in brisk demand, and quite 15 higher.

LONDON CATTLE.

Trade generally quiet. Moderate supply of beef and mutton, and sales proceeded slowly at prices very irregular. Two at auction on Monday, nevertheless few animals withdrawn unsold. Sheep market firm for all best British breeds, with an upward tendency in prices. Foreign, the turn in buyers' favour. Lamb scanty lower, with limited enquiry. Cow market dull at late rates. Yesterday, Pork unaltered. Beef, 5s 1d to 6s 1d; mutton, 4s 1d to 5s 1d; veal, 5s to 6s 6d; pork, 2s 1d to 5s; lamb, 7s 6d to 8s 6d. Hides, 88s; sheep and lambs, 19s; calves, 6s to 7s; pigs, 2s; including orchen hams, 23s; sheep and lambs, 40s; 12s to 50s.

LONDON PRODUCE.

The sugar market continues quiet and unaltered—no public sales held to-day. Collee's 5s dull and prices irregular. Tea at auction. Bicon sold at extreme rates. Myogues under valuations. Fine Suez without improvement. Indian teas without change. Rice quiet and unaltered. Paper dull at late rates. Cotton market flat, and prices rather lower. Jute dull and unaltered. Tallow, new, about 12s 6d spot.

Muir of Ord Camp.

HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY MILITIA.—There are three weeks since the recruits of this regiment mustered in the Barracks, Telford Road, for preliminary drill. For some years past the period of recruit drill has been twenty-eight days, but this year, under the new regulations, it has been extended to thirty-five. Over eighty men joined from the distant Hebrides. After being clothed and accoutred, they proceeded, under the charge of Captain Donaldson, the Adjutant, to be encamped on the same ground as was occupied by the regiment, in a field about midway between the Muir of Ord Station and Beany, a place in every way suited for the purpose; having a good exposure, gentle slope, with plenty of excellent water, and the soil withal dry. The denizens of the canvass village were initiated into the same unfavourable sort of weather which predominated last year during training. There are three parades daily, one from 6.30 to 7.30 a.m., one from 10 to 12 noon, and one from 2 to 4 p.m. All the field arrangements are much the same as last year. The weather has to a certain extent a damaging effect on the feelings of the raw hands, but when the warmth prevails, the camp, no doubt, will have a lively and hearty appearance. The strength, we understand, is Captain Donaldson, Adjutant in command, Lieutenants Kinloch and Gordon Duff, twenty-three permanent staff sergeants, eight buglers, four volunteer sergeants, and one hundred and thirty-six rank and file—in the latter are included several old hands, who were called up as cooks, tailors, musicians, servants, &c. The main body of the regiment will assemble on 6th June, and will join the recruits at the Muir of Ord. The entire strength of the regiment will be about a thousand. Since last year the regiment has sustained a few casualties among officers and men. Major the Hon. James Grant of Grant, M.P. for Morayshire, has resigned. In his place Captain M'Nab was appointed Major. He too has resigned. We hear that Captain Banks will be appointed Major in his place. Major Macrae who is in ill health is not likely to join again, so there is a vacancy for another. Captain Macdonald of Glenaladale is spoken of, and none could be better. Among the casualties in the list of subalterns, are Lieutenant Rainy of Raasay, died; Lieutenant Macleod (Captain, half pay, 78th), resigned; Lieutenant MacGregor, resigned, in place of whom several new appointments have taken place. Two deaths and one resignation have taken place among the members of the permanent staff. There have been in all about seventy or eighty among the volunteers, including service expired men, transfers to the line, and men released on repaying enrolment expenses. Death also has been making his levy among them.

NAIRNSHIRE.

THE WEATHER.—The Nairnshire Telegraph (of Wednesday) reports that the weather during the past week has been extraordinarily cold. The hills in the upper district are covered with snow, and a cold dry east wind has prevailed, checking the growth of vegetation, and in many cases lighting the young sprouts. On Saturday night the thermometer stood at 50 degrees, and within a mile or two of Nairn a slight coating of ice formed on the small pools of water, and icicles were seen hanging from the rocks in sequestered places. Such a degree of cold has rarely been experienced in the middle of May. The uplands are quite bare, the grass having scarcely made any appearance above ground. Pasture everywhere is backward in growth. On Sunday afternoon, several showers of rain fell, but the wind continued easterly. Yesterday, however, there was a change of wind, the breeze being more southerly, but there has been no diminution of the cold.

THE BATHING SEASON.—The Marine Hotel Baths are open daily.

NOTWITHSTANDING the unfavourable weather, there are numerous enquiries for bathing quarters in Nairn. There seems every likelihood of a busy season. We have heard of several instances in which houses are already engaged for July, August, and September. Among the visitors are the Countess of Southesk, and Lady Constance Carnegie, Kinnaird Castle, Mrs Ophiant of Gask, and Mrs Unwin Hayne, who have taken up their quarters at Mr Shaw's Hotel.

ON Saturday last, Simon Fraser, Ballintore, Peggry, attempted to commit suicide, but was fortunately frustrated in his design. He is now in the Northern Infirmary, and progressing favourably. This is a doubly melancholy case, for his brother succeeded, a few days previously, in putting an end to his life.

STRONG FEELING.—A complimentary dinner to Mr Dugald Matheson, hotel-keeper, Stromec, came off on Monday evening, previous to his retirement from the hotel, and a large and influential company assembled to show their appreciation of his character and conduct. We are sorry we cannot find room for a report.

Ireland.

THE O'KEEFE CASE.—It is not surprising that this case should excite a good deal of attention and feeling, if for no other reason than that a priest dares to beard the Cardinal. There are many who think that Dr Cullen is a great political, as well as an ecclesiastical power in Ireland. This is a decided mistake, the Cardinal is anything but popular in political circles; in fact he is regarded as being very much of a wet blanket on all political life, excepting so far as that life may be conducive to the interests of the church. Still the Nation, from which we quote the following, seems to think that he and the Board of National Education have rather the best of it in this instance.—“The Board were apprised through Father O'Keefe's Bishop that the Reverend gentleman had been suspended from his ministry, and acting on the information, they proceeded in regular course to appoint his successor, the Rev Mr Martin, in his place. The conduct of Father O'Keefe and the teachers of the schools subsequently in ignoring the action of the Commissioners, and excluding both Father Martin and the District Inspector from the schools—the latter gentlemen being, in one instance, forcibly ejected from the premises—compelled the board to strike the Callan school off the roll altogether. There is no question, and there can be no question, as to the propriety of this act, if it be admitted that Father Martin was the manager of these schools, and that Father O'Keefe had been properly removed from that position. To judge whether a priest has been properly or improperly suspended is a function which cannot be exercised by any but the authorities of the Church; and the National Board is certainly the last tribunal which could undertake the determination of such a question. A body composed of ten Catholics, six Episcopal Protestants, three Presbyterians, and one Unitarian, would find itself strangely at sea if it undertook, as Mr Justice Morris suggested, to examine the grounds of Father O'Keefe's suspension, and decide the question of their validity. It would be sheer absurdity to attempt it, and though cases not unlike Father O'Keefe's have cropped up before, no one ever dreamt until now of proposing so extraordinary a course for their adoption. In 1851, a Presbyterian clergyman, who was an ex officio manager of a National School in Ulster, was deposed by his Presbytery. He protested, like Father O'Keefe, against the validity of his suspension, declared it to be informal and irregular, and claimed to be fully entitled to his position under the Board. But the Commissioners, acting on their established rule, refused to comply behind the action of the Presbytery, and the Minister was removed from the Managements until such time as he should be regularly restored by those under whose jurisdiction the case fell. Three other such cases have occurred since the formation of the Board, and in each of them the action of the Commissioners has been the same. Of the forty-eight past and present members of the Board, of whom twenty-seven were Protestants—bishops, judges, and college professors—not more than five or six ever demurred to the rule of recognising the certificate of a clergyman's ecclesiastical superiors as sufficient evidence of his suspension; and the principle has been acquiesced in and endorsed more than once by such men as the late Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, the Protestant Bishops of Meath and Derry, and the Provost of Trinity College.”

It is reported that the Irish Times has been purchased by Sir John Arnot for £36,000.

NOTICE.

HIGHLANDER NEWSPAPER. Intending Subscribers, Advertisers, Newspaper Agents, &c., are respectfully requested to send their orders as early as possible to MR W. T. SQUIRE, 75a Strand, W.C., from whom every information, prices for Advertisements, and specimen copies can be obtained. A file of “The Highlander” retained.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MAILS FROM THE POST OFFICE, INVERNESS.

Table with columns: MAIL, DISPATCH, MAIL DTE. Lists arrivals and departures for various destinations like China, Ceylon, India, etc.

NOTE.—When any of the above dates of Dispatch falls on a Saturday, the letter should be posted before 12 noon, on the day preceding, except in the case of letters forwarded by Marseilles, which will be in sufficient time if posted before 9 30 A.M. on Sunday.

LOOK OUT FOR BARGAINS.

C. WILSON & CO., 14 BANK STREET, INVERNESS, while sincerely thanking their numerous Customers for the very kind patronage they have received during their five years' residence in Inverness, beg to intimate that, owing to the above Premises which they occupy having changed hands, they are bound to leave at First Term, and will sell off, up to the 20th of May, all their large and valuable Stock of CHINA, CRYSTALL; Breakfast, Dinner, Dessert, Tea and Toilet Sets, in great variety; and every description of EARTHENWARE and FANCY GOODS, all of which MUST BE SOLD at some Price. C. W. & CO. will also sell all their HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, New and Second Hand, including those in their own private Dwelling-Rooms—Cottage Piano, Mahogany Sideboard, Dining Table and Chairs, Couch, Arm Chairs, Gilt Eight-Day Clock, Mirror, Fenders and Irons, Pictures, Carpets, Silver Plated Cruet, Roast Jacks, Vases, &c.; every necessary for 20 to 30 Bed-Rooms, Sitting-Rooms, and Kitchens; Lobby Table and Chairs, Bureau, Window Trimmings; Chests of Drawers, Mahogany, Hardwood, and Iron Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Hair, Wool, and Flock Mattresses, Palliasses, &c.; 300 Pairs of New Scotch and English Blankets, Bed Covers, &c.; 600 Yards New Tapestry Carpet; Felt, &c.; Broad and Narrow Wax Cloth; Crumb Cloth, Rugs, Mats, Cocoanut Matting, &c.; Horse and Carriage Rugs, Gie Waterproof Aprons; Fishing Trowsers and Stockings; 2 Fishing Rods; 2 First-class Coles, complete; 2 Hot or Cold Shower Baths; 2 Large Vases for Hall Door; Mahogany Book-Case, with Glass Doors; 2 Copying Presses and Books; 2 Copper Scales, Beams, and Weights; Letter Scales and Weights, a few Large Water Filters, suitable for Hotels, &c.; a Polished Brass Chandelier, from Ness Castle Billiard Room.

Goods of every description having advanced to such an enormous price during the twelve months, and C. W. & CO. having Purchased most of their Extensive Stock previous to advance, they are prepared to give such Bargains as must insure a speedy clearance. Orders from the Country specially attended to. Agents, who will take any kind of GOODS in EXCHANGE for Crockery Ware, or pay Cash for Scrap Iron and Metal, Old Books, Ledgers, Newspapers, Waste Paper, Tailors' Clips, Ropes, Gunno Bags, Sheep Nets, Hides, Horns, Lead, Brass, Copper, Bottles, Broken Wool, and Skins of every description. Porters in attendance for Town. Inverness, March, 1873.

GUARANTEED MANURES.

Just arrived from the AGRICULTURAL COMPANY OF SCOTLAND, a Cargo of First-class MANURE, viz “Gipsy Queen” and “CHARBO GUANO” Imported direct by the Company, per C/RACOA Do. “Southern Cross.” NITRATE OF SODA Splendid Top-dressing for Grass and Pasture. CHLORIDE OF POTASH Prepared from the best material used in SUPERPHOSPHATE section of Company's Chemist. Delivery on favourable terms, at the WINDMILL, INVERNESS, or at DEALERS, SROARS, and also from the WORKS, TIMBER-BUSH, LEITH. Catalogues free on application to their Agents, M. MACDONALD, Corn Factor, &c., 20 Baron Taylor's Street, Inverness, May 1873. N.B.—This Company has been formed for giving the full benefit to Agriculturists by providing the best article at the lowest remunerative rate.

TROTTER'S AUCTION MART, LOCHGOIRM, INVERNESS.

FAT STOCK SALES every TUESDAY, at 1.30. MILK COWS and STORE CATTLE every FRIDAY, at One o'clock. Ample accommodation for Cattle and Sheep, with good Keep.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

SIXTH DIVISION OF PROFITS. LIFE DEPARTMENT. The Financial Year of the CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY Ended on 14th May current, BUT THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY WILL BE KEPT OPEN TILL THE END OF THE MONTH, AND ALL PROPOSALS DATED ON OR BEFORE 14th INSTANT WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGERS, 31 MARK LANE, LONDON, AND BY THE PARTICIPATING POLICIES AT THE NEXT DIVISION OF PROFITS AT 14TH MAY 1873 TO SIX YEARS' BONUS.

FIVE DIVISIONS of the Profits have already been made, at each of which the BENEFITS allocated to the Assured were INCREASED. Few Companies, however large their Business, have been able to do so.

MODERATE PREMIUMS. GOOD BONUSES. PERFECT SECURITY. FUNDS ALL INVESTED IN HOME SECURITIES.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Almost every description of Property Insured at the usual rates. NO FOREIGN BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

EDINBURGH (Head Office).—30 GHOZ STREET. LONDON:—MR W. L. LAWRENCE, banker. DUBLIN:—MR ALEX. MACDONALD, solicitor, Cumming Street.

- Agents list: INVERNESS: Mr Donald Forbes, writer, 42 Union Street. Banff: Mr W. R. Ross, merchant. Dingwall: Mr Murdo Macgregor, banker. Forres: Mr Alex. Macdonald, solicitor, Cumming Street. Invermay (Skye): Mr Daniel Fraser, merchant. Lochbroon: Mr Murdo Macleay, schoolmaster. Oban: Mr W. R. Ross, merchant. Peterhead: Mr T. J. Brunner, banker. Portree: Mr Harry Macdonald, banker. Portsoy: Mr William Boudan. Tain: Mr W. R. Ross, merchant. Thurso: Mr W. R. Tait, Muckle office. Wick: Mr Mr. Macaulahan, sheriff-clerk. Doon: Mr David Leith.

LEA AND PERRINS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Pronounced by connoisseurs the only “GOOD SAUCE.” Be careful to ask for “LEA and PERRINS' SAUCE.” Beware of cheap imitations, label, bottle and stopper. Sold by Cross and Blackwell, London, and by all Dealers in Saucers. BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS. LEA AND PERRINS, WORCESTER.

SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and a number of PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENTS, &c., at 15 Church Street, on Saturday, 24th. Sale to commence at 2 o'clock. JOHN BOSS, Auctioneer.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AT TIGHINELL HOUSE, ISLAND BANK, INVERNESS.

On Saturday, the 24th May 1873. HAMILTON & SON will sell, as above, the whole lot—2500 FRAMES in TIGHINELL HOUSE, belonging to John Fraser, Esq., consisting of— IN DRAWING-ROOM—Piano, Stool and Canterbury. Centre Table with four Clifftonier, 7 Chairs, Ottomans, Console, 2 sets Window Curtains, Carpets, and Heavy Rugs, Easy Chairs, a single do., stuffed Birds, Gassier, with Globes, stand for China, &c., &c. IN DINING-ROOM—Sideboard, 7 Chairs, 2 Easy Chairs, 2 Foot Stools, Chiffonier, 2 Cushions, 2 Folding Chairs with Skins, Window Curtains, Carpet and Heavy Rug, Coal, Scuttle and Scoop, Gate, Fender, Fire-irons and Guard, &c. IN BEDROOMS—Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Bolsters and Pillows, Toilet Glasses, Washstands, Double and Single; Towel Rails, Wardrobes, Chest of Drawers, Bedroom Ware, and numerous other articles; as well as all the Furniture in the Nursery, Bath-Room, Pantry, Hall, Kitchen and Scullery. Larder, Lavatory, Servants' Looon, and Wash-house, including Cradle, Old China, Glass and Stoneware. Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock Forenoon. Ready Money.

LESSONS IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE, For Beginners and Advanced Students, by the Very Rev. PRESIDENT of ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, are being published in THE “T.U.A.M. NEWS.”

Every Friday Evening. Agents wanted for the Sale of the T.U.A.M. NEWS all over Ireland, England, Scotland, America, and Australia. For terms apply to the Proprietor, JOHN MACMILLAN, T.U.A.M. Co. Galway. The First Lesson in the Irish Language appeared on the 4th April. In order to meet the demand, a second edition of the T.U.A.M. NEWS was printed, which is now nearly sold. Unless orders for the T.U.A.M. NEWS reach the office before Tuesday in each week, they cannot be attended to. The yearly subscription for the Paper supplied through the post is 10s 6d.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM OSSIAN, By PAOLO PRIOLO.

Dedicated by kind permission to His Grace the DUKE of RICHMOND, Scotland, America, and Australia. President of the Highland Society of London. Supported by the Highland, Caledonian, and Gaelic Societies of London. A series of 12 Etchings from the Poems of Ossian, each plate accompanied by a page of descriptive text, collated by J. Murdoch, Esq., Inverness, Editor of the Highlander. Handsomely bound in cloth gilt. Size, half Imperial. Price £2 2s. Will be ready shortly. Order from Signor P. Priolo, 64 Stockwell Park Road, London, S.W.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex, acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and Pains in the Back, Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors; or sent to any address, free of postage by the Maker, F. J. CLARKE, Consulting Chemist, High Street, Lincoln.—Wholesale Agents, BAILEY & SOXS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

“FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE.”—See Dentonbury, chap. xi., verse 23.

CLARKE'S WORLD FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE, THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER, For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities, cannot be too highly recommended. Cures Scrofula, Scary, Skin Diseases, and Sores of all kinds it is a never-failing and permanent cure. It Cures Old Sores. Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck. Cures Ulcerated Sores Legs. Cures Blackheads, or Pimples on the Face. Cures Scabby Sores. Cures Cancerous Ulcers. Cures Blood and Skin Diseases. Cures Glandular Swellings. Clears the Blood from all impure matter, From the Liver, or from striking, cures Scurvy, As the mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of Testimonials from all parts. Sold in Bottles 2s 6d each, and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases.—BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS throughout the United Kingdom and the world, or sent to any address on receipt of 27 or 132 stamps by F. J. CLARKE, CHEMIST, High Street, Lincoln. Wholesale: All Patent Medicine Houses.

CAMPBELL'S DIPPING COMPOSITION

For Sheep and Lambs, &c., Destroys Vermin on Sheep and breaks the Eggs, keeps the Wool free from striking, cures Scab, keeps the Sheep clean, does not burn the Wool or Animal, does not discolour the Wool, is a preventive and cure for Maggots, keeps the Wool soft and supple, gives the Wool a fine appearance, increases the growth of the Wool, makes the Sheep thrive, is the best Vermine Dip for Sheep, is the best Dip for Lambs at shearing, is the best use for at any time, is a cure for vermin on Cattle, is a cure for itch on Cattle, is a cure for ringworm on Cattle, is the best and most composed of substantial ingredients, is the most valuable and substantial ever introduced at the price, and gives universal satisfaction. Sufficient for 100 Sheep costs Twelve Shillings. Orders for the Dip received and Executed by ALEX. CAMPBELL, J.N. & CO., GLASGOW; Or by any Smearing and Dipping Material Merchants or Agents.

“I don't remember ever having seen you before,” said the lawyer said to his conscience.

“Daughter-cultural show is the latest name for an evening party. The girls don't like it.”

A man who had a scolding wife, being asked what he did for a living, replied that he “kept a hot-house!” “Why do you choose to live a single life?” asked a fashionable filler of an estimable young lady. “Because,” she replied, “I am not able to support a husband.”

Josh Billings was asked, “How fast does sound travel?” His idea is that it depends a good deal upon the noise you are talking about. “The sound of a dinner-horn, for instance, travels half a mile in a second, while an invitational twig cut in the morning I have known to be 3/4 quarts up an hour gain 2 pair of stairs, and then not hear strength enuff left to be heard.”

THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY.

THE Public are respectfully informed that on 1st May, 1873, and until further notice, that the Trains will arrive and depart at the following hours, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit, viz. —

SUTHERLAND AND ROSSSHIRE SECTION. INVERNESS AND HELMSDALE.

Table with columns: STATIONS, M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include Inverness, Beaulieu, Muir of Ord, Dingwall, Invergordon, Tain, Elderton, Bonar-Bridge, Invershin, Lairg, Rogart, The Mound, Golaig, Helmsdale, Coaches arrive at Dornoch, Wick, Thurso.

HELMSDALE TO INVERNESS.

Table with columns: STATIONS, M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include Thurso, Dornoch for the Mound, Helmsdale, The Mound, Rogart, Invershin, Bonar-Bridge, Elderton, Tain, Invergordon, Dingwall, Muir of Ord, Beaulieu, Inverness.

DINGWALL AND SKYE SECTION.

Table with columns: STATIONS, M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include Dingwall, Strathpeffer, Achnasheen, Strone Ferry, STREMS, Strone Ferry, Portree, Rornoway, INVERNESS AND PERTH SECTION, INVERNESS TO PERTH.

INVERNESS AND PERTH SECTION. INVERNESS TO PERTH.

Table with columns: STATIONS, M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include Inverness, Forres, Grantown, Blair-Athole, Piltchery, Ballinluig, Aberfeldy, Dunkeld, Perth, Dundee, Edinburgh via Fife, Do. via Stirling, Glasgow, London, G.N., Do. L. and N.W., PERTH TO INVERNESS.

PERTH TO INVERNESS.

Table with columns: STATIONS, M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include L & N.W., Do. G.N., Glasgow, Do. (Fife), Dundee, Perth, Dunkeld, Ballinluig, Aberfeldy, Piltchery, Blair-Athole, Kinnisno, Boat of Garten, Grantown, Forres, Nairn, Inverness.

INVERNESS AND KEITH SECTION. INVERNESS TO KEITH.

Table with columns: STATIONS, P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass), M. (Mid), P. (Pass). Rows include Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Eight, Forchabers, Banff, Aberdeen, KEITH TO INVERNESS, Aberdeen, Banff, Keith, Forchabers, Elgin, Forres, Nairn, Inverness.

From Principal Stations on the Highland Railway, Third Class Parliamentary Passengers are Booked to Edinburgh and Glasgow by the Train leaving Tain at 10 A.M., and Inverness at 12.40 P.M., also by same Trains.

THIRD CLASS TO LONDON DAILY, at 42s 6d. CHEAP FARES ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS.

GOODS TRAINS.—Goods Trains are run every lawful day between INVERNESS and PERTH leaving Inverness at 10.55 A.M. 3.40 P.M., and Perth at 1.10 and 3.35 A.M., and 3.35 and 6.10 P.M.; and also between Blair-Athole and Perth, leaving Perth for Blair-Athole at 6.45 A.M., and Blair-Athole for Perth at 10 A.M.; between INVERNESS and KEITH, leaving Inverness for Keith at 6 A.M., and leaving Keith for Inverness at 1 P.M.; leave Forres for Keith at 9.20 A.M., and leave Keith for Forres at 1 P.M.; between INVERNESS and TAIN, leave Inverness at 5.30 and 11 A.M., leave Tain at 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. Goods between TAIN and HELMSDALE leave Tain every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 9.35 A.M., and daily at 11.25 A.M. and 5.25 P.M. HELMSDALE every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 10 A.M., and by all Trains between Dingwall and Strone Ferry. Goods and Live Stock are booked through between principal Stations on the Highland Railway and Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, and London, &c. Charges may be learned on application to Mr Mackay, Goods Manager, Inverness. AND DOUGALL, General Manager. Railway Office, Inverness, 30th April, 1873.

THE ROYAL ROUTE, VIA LOCH LAGGAN, PER "ROYAL MAIL COACH."

FROM FORT-WILLIAM TO KINGUSSIE, BLAIR-ATHOLE, PERTH, STIRLING, EDINBURGH, and GLASGOW, leaving Fort-William at 5 A.M., and Kingussie about 1 P.M., in connection with the North and South Railways to and from Inverness.

Passengers are booked from the Railway Offices at Edinburgh and Glasgow. FARES.—Outside, 12s 6d; Front or Inside, 15s. Driver's Fee, 1s. Seats secured, and all necessary information given at the Coach-Office, Fort-William, Ballachulish, and Oban.

TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

THE NEW MARKET TEA SHOP (conducted on the ready-money system), is now enlarged, and Stocked with a New and Choice Selection of Teas, Coffees, Sugars, and General Groceries. Special advantages in prices and quality of goods.

AGRICULTURAL SALT. ROCK SALT. COMMON SALT.

In Store at Maryburgh. Apply to JAMES YULE. Use Cottage, Maryburgh, 5th May 1873.

MANURES.—THE SUBSCRIBERS have the following MANURES for Sale; and all are Sold with a guaranteed Analysis.

- PERUVIAN GUANO. PHOSPHOR PERUVIAN GUANO. BURRELL'S CORN MANURE. CHALLENGE MANURE. BONE MEAL. SUPERPHOSPHATE. HUGH FRASER, Balloch, Culloden, WILLIAM SINCLAIR, Balmfadack, Inverness.

NORTHERN COUNTRIES BONE MANURE WORKS, BUNCHREW, INVERNESS.

JOHN CRAN & CO. Beg to intimate to their Agricultural Friends in the Northern Counties that they are now prepared to supply the following MANURES at their Works here, or at any Railway Station:—

- CRUSHED BONES. MIXED BONES. BONE DUST. BONE MEAL. DISSOLVED BONES, No. 1. Do. Do. No. 2. BONE ASH SUPERPHOSPHATE. PERUVIAN BONE MANURE. POTATO MANURE. CORN MANURE (WHEAT). Do. (BARLEY). Do. (OATS). GRASS MANURE. SUPERPHOSPHATE. Sold also at Current Prices, PHOSPHOR GUANO (Lawson's). SULPHATE OF POTASH. PACIFIC GUANO (do.). PERUVIAN GUANO. NITRATE OF SODA. ICHABOE GUANO. RAINIT. GUANINE GUANO. SULPHURIC ACID. SULPHATE OF AMMONIA. &c. Special Manures, or Mixtures of any Descriptions, prepared to order on the shortest notice. Prices, Terms, List of Agents, &c., on application. Manure Works, Bunchrew, Inverness.

A. MACLEAN AND SONS, TAILORS, CLOTHIERS, AND OUTFITTERS, 35 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

Inventors of the far-famed Highland Cloak and Deer-Stalking Knieckerbockers, garments unrivalled for comfort and convenience.

HAVE made a careful and extensive selection of High-class TWEEDS, CONVEYS for SPORTING and SUMMER WEAR in every variety of Make, from the leading Scotch Manufacturers, and their ranges of Shetland, Homespun, and other well-known SHOOTING TWEEDS are the largest they ever had to show. In texture and design these TWEEDS are the very best productions of the loom, and among them are to be found many specialties which combine the requisite wearable qualities with a delightful softness pleasant to the feel.

THE STALKING CLOAK, its soft-sprung and hard-twist Cheviot Tweeds, with special improvements, which makes it the most approved hap for Moor and Hill, or travelling by Rail and Steamer. PUT FORTH WEAR.—Having to supply our Customers in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, with fashionable Clothing, we can always assume the leading styles in gracefully fitting garments.

THE HIGHLAND DRESS

As designed by us for the Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862. We have had the distinguished honour of making up this truly national Garb, so characteristic of the Highlands, for the Royal Family of Great Britain and the Prince Imperial of France, as well as for other Royal Continental personages. For a period of thirty years we have made this department our particular study, and during that time have brought into requisition the most ancient and noblest and Belted Plaids, which are admitted as the acknowledged standards, and our style of Dress is now almost universally worn for the Ball-room and the Hill.

Our Stock is extensive, and includes GARLBLOCH, DICED, and CLAS TARTAN HOSIERY. F O R B O Y S . The Knieckerbock Tail, declared by the Cornhill Magazine to be "the best dress for Boys ever invented," which were the first to show. In texture and design these TWEEDS are the very best productions of the loom, and among them are to be found many specialties which combine the requisite wearable qualities with a delightful softness pleasant to the feel.

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A. MACLEAN AND SONS, TAILORS, CLOTHIERS, AND OUTFITTERS, 35 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

Inventors of the Deer-Stalking Knieckerbockers and far-famed Highland Cloak, garments unrivalled for comfort and convenience.

DONALD MPHEE, MANUFACTURER OF HIGHLAND AGGIPES, 171 WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW.

Great Highland Bagpipes, made of ebony, full-mounted with ivory. 23 0 0 Do. half-mounted with silver. 16 0 0 Clashed, or Engraved. 30 0 0 Half size as above, 45. 10 and 11. 2 10 0 Miniature Pipe. 2 10 0 Practising Chanter 8s, 7s 6d, and 6s. 0 10 0 Large Pipe Chanter. 5 0 0 Half size, do. 0 15 0 Gunn's Pipe Music, the best and most complete collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs, &c. ever published, bound in cloth 6s, stiff.

EMIGRATION TO ONTARIO, CANADA. ASSISTED Ocean Passages, free Railway Passages, free Gifts of Land, &c.

For particulars, apply to Alexander Berg, Emigration Commissioner, 43 York Street, Glasgow.

Rates of Advertising.

Government, Corporations, Public Companies, Legal, Parliamentary, Municipal, and other Election Addresses, Town and County Licences, Bankruptcy, and Notices of all descriptions, 6d per line. Heraldic Proprietors for Sale or Let, House Lands, Farms, Grass Parks, and Sales of Farm Stock, Public, Parochial, Road and Railway Meetings, Contracts, Tenders, Educational, Concerts, Presentations, 4d per line. Five per cent. in addition for Accounts. Situations Vacant and Wanted (cash) 3d per line. Regular and continuing Advertisements by special agreement. Notices of BIRTHS and DEATHS are inserted at a charge of 1s each. MARRIAGES 1s 6d. (When Notices are added, or when entered to account, 6d extra.

PRICES OF HIGHLANDER.

Table with columns: SENT TO COUNTRY UNDER COVER, Year, Half Year, Quarter. Rows include By Halfpenny Postage, Credit, By Railway Letter, Credit, Do., DELIVERED IN INVERNESS, Credit, Paid in advance.

AGENTS.

- ALNESS—Hugh Mackenzie. BONAR-IRISH—J. Polson. NAIN—Joseph Melven; Hunter & Co. FORRES—Mr Michie. BRORAIG—Alex. Fraser. ELGIN—Thos. Smith, Bookseller. KEITH—Mr Brown. ABERDEEN—Wm. Lindsay. GARGROCK—Wm. Innes, 40 Hamilton Street. G. & O'BAN—J. Miller. PERTH—Glasgow, John Douglas. PERTH—Glasgow, Alex. Dougart. ABERDEEN—Messrs Menzies & Co., Hanover Street. GLASGOW—W. Love, 228 Argyle Street. Do., Paid in advance 9 10 5 0 2 0 DELIVERED IN INVERNESS. Credit 10 0 5 0 5 0 2 0 Paid in advance 8 8 4 4 2 0 Single Copy, cash, 2d.; per Post, 2d.

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 AND PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862 and 1867, by which the Liability of each Shareholder is strictly limited to the amount for which he subscribes).

CAPITAL £3000, in 3000 Shares of £1 each.

Secretary and Editor—JOHN MURDOCH, at the Offices, EXCHANGE PLACE, INVERNESS.

Bankers—CALEDONIAN BANKING COMPANY, Inverness.

All Business or Editorial Communications to be addressed to the "HIGHLANDER OFFICE,"
 Exchange Place, Inverness.

This Company is being formed for the purpose of establishing a Newspaper to be called "*The Highlander*," and to carry on the business of Printing and Publishing in the Town of Inverness.

The objects of *The Highlander* are:—To foster enterprise and public opinion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; to advocate, independently of party considerations, those political, social, and economic measures which appear best calculated to advance the well-being of the people at large; and to provide Highlanders at home and abroad with a record and review of events, in which due prominence shall be given to Highland affairs.

It is believed that this will prove a remunerative enterprise, and meet a want which is much felt.

"*The Highlander*" will give the earliest and most authentic intelligence on all questions relating to Commerce, Agriculture, Education, Religion, Literature, and Politics, and on all other subjects of local and general interest.

The Money and other Markets will be dealt with specially by writers versed in such matters.

All political and religious movements will be faithfully chronicled, and the actions of political parties subjected to independent criticism; whilst every help will be given to promote sound and patriotic legislation by whomsoever initiated. All parties in Church and State shall have a fair hearing, the Editor reserving the power of commenting upon what appears in his columns, and of excluding unsuitable communications. He will claim and accord full liberty to differ in opinion, at the same time that he will offer and expect a large amount of co-operation in every good work.

A primary object of *The Highlander* will be to awaken an intelligent and vigorous public spirit, and afford opportunity and encouragement to the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands to be heard in their own behalf and in matters on which they are best able to judge. Highland interests, however, will be advocated and Highland ideas ventilated in no narrow spirit, but in the conviction that Highlanders have duties to perform as well as rights to defend.

The paper will aim at promoting Commercial, Manufacturing, and Agricultural enterprise; and will afford a fair and respectful hearing to the manufacturer, the merchant, and the tradesman; to the landowner, the farmer, and the labourer. This, it is believed, will make the paper really representative, and secure variety and piquancy without resort to personalities; at the same time that a variety of forces, now latent, will be aroused to advance the general good.

The nation now begins to see that the policy of depopulating the country, and throwing the land out of cultivation, was an economic blunder of the gravest sort, carried out in cruel disregard of the feelings and instincts of the people. *The Highlander* will endeavour to give effect to the wiser and more generous views now taking possession of the public mind—advancing alike the real interests of landlord and tenant, and at the same time benefiting all other classes of the community.

Among the topics, therefore, which shall have prominence, are the Land Question; Game Preservation and Deer Forestry; the best systems of Rural Economy and Practical Husbandry; the establishing of Manufactures in the Highlands; the Fisheries; the working of Mines, Quarries, and Peat Mosses; the Utilization of Sewage; Railway Extension, Management, &c. Other questions will arise to be dealt with according as they affect the well-being and doing of the community.

Gaelic is still spoken, perhaps, over one-half the area of Scotland, and by considerable numbers in our large towns and colonies; whilst the learned of all lands look to the Gaelic language for valuable materials with which to perfect Philology, Archaeology, and other branches in Science and Philology. The views of both the learned and the unlearned shall be met, and the columns of *The Highlander* made, so far, racy of the soil, by some space being devoted to Gaelic articles, tales, poetry, and music, both ancient and modern. Occasionally, Gaelic readers shall be introduced to Irish, Manx, Welsh, &c.

Pictorial Illustrations, setting forth the attractions of the country, are due occasionally, if not regularly, in a journal issuing in the Highlands. The neighbourhood of Inverness, in particular, has never had justice done to it in picture or in print. *The Highlander* will be illustrated according as circumstances permit and require.

Inverness, which rejoices in such a rare surrounding of what is useful and beautiful, should be a large, wealthy, and influential town. A wisely directed public spirit will turn its advantages to account. *The Highlander* offers assistance, and appeals for co-operation, to work out greatness for the Capital, and prosperity for the whole Highlands from the many rich materials which they possess; and this appeal is made, confident of a hearty response.

EXCHANGE PLACE,
 Inverness, 12th May, 1873.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

CAPITAL £3000, in 3000 Shares of £1 each.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE
 HIGHLANDER NEWSPAPER AND PRINTING
 AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—I request that you will allot to me _____ Shares of £1 in the above undertaking, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number of Shares that you may allot to me, and to pay the Calls thereon, and I authorise you to enter me in the Register of Shareholders as Proprietor of such Shares, and

I am,
 Your obedient Servant,

Signature _____
 Full Christian Name and Surname _____
 Profession _____
 Address _____
 Date _____

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE PAPER.

TO THE PUBLISHERS OF
 "THE HIGHLANDER" NEWSPAPER.

GENTLEMEN,

I request you to enrol me as an Annual Subscriber for "*The Highlander*," and I agree to remit the amount of Subscription on receipt of the first number of the Paper.

I am,
 GENTLEMEN,
 Your obedient Servant,

Name _____
 Address _____
 Date _____